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Rabin: We are yielding for the sake of peace

Israel, Palestinians sign Oslo 2

DAVID MAKOVSKY
and HILLEL KUTTLER
WASHINGTON

AFTER months of difficult negotiations, Israel and the Palestinians yesterday signed the landmark Oslo 2 accord at the White House, paving the way for an IDF withdrawal from all Palestinian cities in the territories and elections for a Palestinian council.

In a broad effort to demonstrate that most of the region was supportive of the deal, the US arranged for President Bill Clinton to preside over a two-hour East Room ceremony that was attended not only by Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, but also by many top-level representatives of Middle Eastern states.

"We are not alone here on this soil, in this land," Rabin stated in his speech at the ceremony. "And so we are sharing this good earth today with the Palestinian people - in order to choose life."

Before the signing, Clinton promised Rabin that he would agree to an Israeli request that the US reduce the penalties on the \$2 billion a year in US-backed loan guarantees by the amount Israel will spend preparing for the IDF withdrawal. This apparently includes costs for paving new bypass roads.

Telling reporters of Clinton's commitment, Rabin suggested that the amount figure for loan guarantees would be closer to \$200 than \$210. Furthermore, he said that there would be "no caps" limiting the amount Israel can spend within the overall limit. Until now, the figure was about \$900 million.

The signing ceremony was delayed for about 20 minutes by a dispute relating to the redeployment of the IDF around Hebron. Clinton was forced to intervene, a US official said.

"It was a loose end that was a little harder to the down than had been expected. It demonstrates how meticulously both sides ne-



Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Palestinian Authority head Yasser Arafat sign the Oslo 2 interim agreement, as US President Bill Clinton looks on. Standing (from left) are Foreign Ministry legal adviser Yoel Singer, Jordan's King Hussein, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, an unidentified US official, and PA Minister for Local Government Affairs Saeb Erekat.

glected the agreement. This is a land where things are determined in inches," the official told Reuters.

He said the snag arose an hour before the scheduled signing of the accord, while Clinton was meeting with Rabin, Arafat, Hussein, and Mubarak.

"There was an issue related to the redeployment of the IDF around Hebron. It involved a very specific aspect of redeployment," he said.

US special Middle East envoy Dennis Ross interrupted the Oval

Office meeting to tell Clinton of the dispute, and the president pulled Rabin and Arafat into an anteroom, where they successfully settled it at Clinton's urging, the official said.

In addition to Jordan's King Hussein and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, who served as official witnesses, Saudi Foreign Minister Saud al-Faisal and the foreign ministers of the six Gulf states, Tunisia, and Mauritania, and the prime minister of Morocco also attended the signing.

The foreign ministers of Rus-

sia, Norway, and Spain were present, as was Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez, whose country now holds the rotating chairmanship of the European Union.

After the ceremony, Rabin said he had heard there could be a compromise on the date for holding Palestinian elections.

According to the information - which Rabin said should still be called a "rumor" - the Palestinians would elect the head of the Palestinian Authority in January, but hold elections for the entire

territory no later than April, by which time the Hebron bypass road should be completed.

With regard to the release of Palestinian prisoners, Rabin said he expected it to begin next week. At the same time, he admitted that "there are delays," an apparent reference to President Ezer Weizman's reluctance to commute the sentences of some of the 28 women prisoners.

On the plane to the US, Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said 11 of the 28 prisoners need a presidential pardon.

Peres also said he did not see how it was possible to grant the Palestinians an extra five kilometers north of Jericho, since that area runs along the main road. Rabin told reporters that "insignificant" tracts of land could be added to Jericho, but did not elaborate.

In their speeches, both Arafat and Rabin struck themes designed to signal conciliation.

"From this day on," Arafat declared, "we do not want to see any waste of or threat to any innocent Palestinian life or any in-

nocent Israeli life. Enough killing, and enough killing of innocent people."

In an apparent bid to answer Israeli criticism that he hasn't spoken out forcefully enough against terrorism, Arafat said that violence is "not only morally reprehensible, but undermines Palestinian aspirations to the realization of peace" and the "exercise of our political and national options."

Third Way rejects accord
Page 2

Fatah prepares PR campaign
Page 3

Opposition protests
Page 4

While acknowledging the biblical roots of both Israel and the territories, Rabin sought to defuse once and for all the hopes of some for a "Greater Israel," saying: "But we are not alone here on this soil. And so we are sharing this good earth today with the Palestinian people, in order to choose life."

At the same time, he issued a stern warning to Arafat to crack down harder on terrorism, or face the prospect of Israel doing the job.

"Together, we should not let the land of milk and honey become a land flowing with blood and tears. Don't let it happen... Rivers of hatred will overflow again and swamp the Middle East. We, gentlemen, will not permit terrorism to defeat peace. We will not allow it. If we do not have partners in this bitter, difficult war, we will fight it alone. We know how to fight. We know how to win."

In signing the accord, Rabin asserted: "We are not retreating. We are not leaving. We are yielding. And we are doing so for the sake of peace."

He did not mention Jerusalem in his speech, but Arafat did, saying: "The sanctity of Jerusalem for us all dictates that we make it the joint cornerstone and capital of peace between the Palestinian and Israeli peoples, inasmuch as it is a beacon for believers all over the world."

Clinton, Rabin, and Arafat pointedly sought to prod Syria and Lebanon to join the peace camp. "We will press forward un-

(Continued on Page 2)

Weizman considers pardoning Jewish killers as part of deal

PRESIDENT Ezer Weizman yesterday evening appeared to be working out a complicated deal on the prisoner exchange issue aimed at placating both the right-wing and the Palestinians.

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BATSHEVA TSUR

Weizman was expected to announce, after a delay of a few days, the release of "all but one or two" of the 28 Palestinian women on the government's prisoner release list - and at the same time to pardon or commute the sentences of five Jews sentenced for the murder of Arabs, a source said.

Among them is mass murderer Ami Popper, whose request for commutation of sentence is being considered. Pardoning the Jewish murderers would require Weizman's signature and a counter-signature by Justice Minister David Liba'i.

"The minister will not object to signing," the source said. But Liba'i's spokesman refused to comment.

At the same time, the Palestinians will apparently be given an assurance that those prisoners

not released in this phase will receive pardons later. Weizman had earlier promised Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak to facilitate the release of all Palestinian women prisoners.

Liba'i arrived at Beit Hanassi in the late morning to hand over the first files to the president and attend a swearing-in ceremony for judges. He was met by a group of demonstrators from the Victims of Arab Terrorism organization, some of whom tried to attack him. They were joined by Popper's relatives. Police held back the demonstrators and detained one man.

The first files related to seven female Palestinian prisoners - one of whom, Anam Jabari, 24, is serving a 12-year sentence for the murder of a yeshiva student in Jerusalem's Sacher Park in 1988. Others include Bashir Abu Laban, 18, sentenced to seven years (Continued on Page 3)

Signing ceremony came in time for O.J. recess

HILLEL KUTTLER
WASHINGTON

ANYONE doubting the difficulty in marketing yesterday's White House ceremony need only have heard CNN anchor Reid Collins tell viewers, at the exact minute the network showed President Bill Clinton witnessing Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat signing the Oslo 2 accord: "We should remind people we're not missing any of the Simpson trial. It's on recess now in California."

There it was: Middle East peace didn't just take a back seat to the closing arguments in the O.J. Simpson murder trial and to the daily afternoon soap operas. It wasn't even in the same car.

None of the networks covered the event live, and CNN carried just the signing and subsequent speeches by King Hussein, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, Rabin, and Arafat - omitting ad-

resses by Clinton and the seemingly endless array of foreign ministers.

Rabin himself put it best when he began his speech: "First, the good news: I am the last speaker."

By then it was too late. Throughout Arafat's penultimate speech, his top lieutenant, Mahmoud Abbas (Abu Mazen) was clearly seen snoring. For good measure, so, too, at various points, were Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, Secretary of State Warren Christopher, and US Trade Representative Mickey Kantor.

Since Arafat last visited Washington for the signing of the Declaration of Principles two years ago, comparisons were inevitable. With the proceedings toned down and moved from the expan-

(Continued on Page 3)

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Third Way rejects Oslo 2

SARAH HONIG

THE Third Way executive last night voted to reject the Oslo 2 agreement as it now stands.

Third Way leader MK Avigdor Kahalani (Labor) said he would be meeting Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin on Tuesday to seek clarifications of the accord. Yesterday, he conferred with Education Minister Amnon Rubinstein, and today he is to meet with Interior Minister Ehud Barak.

"While the executive reiterated the Third Way's support for territorial compromise, a separation between Israelis and Palestinians, and an end to Israeli rule over another people, it strongly rejected the Oslo 2 agreement because it fails to meet minimal prerequisites," Kahalani reported.

"The first of these is that Rabin nowhere revealed the government's red lines for a final settlement. Nowhere are we apprised of the final withdrawal lines or what, for example, is to happen to the Jordan Valley, Gush Etzion, or even Jerusalem."

"The executive also came out

against nothing having been done about the loopholes on the extradition of terrorists. In fact, if anything, this failure will make things far worse than they already are because seven more safe havens for terrorists are being added to the two already existing in Gaza and Jericho.

"The Third Way demands that Rabin define precisely what further withdrawals are being planned. The Oslo 2 accord speaks of more pullbacks every six months. No information has been issued to the citizens of this country about just what sort of withdrawals are being contemplated. The nation thus be kept in the dark. It is unethical."

"Finally, the Third Way insists on making the continuation of the process conditional on the PLO's doing away with the Palestinian Covenant which calls for Israel's destruction," Kahalani said. "If, when I meet Rabin, he fails to reassure me on each and every of these points, I will vote against the agreement," he stressed.

White House diplomatically softens Arafat comment

WASHINGTON (Reuters) — FLO chairman Yasser Arafat was quite emphatic yesterday that the Oslo 2 agreement would lead to a Palestinian state, but the White House transcript dropped a critical word, possibly for diplomatic reasons.

Reporters clearly heard Arafat say "definitely" when they asked him at the start of an Oval Office meeting with President Bill Clinton if the accord would lead to a Palestinian state.

A tape recording of the exchange shows that Arafat said "definitely" twice. But the official transcript omits his emphatic response.

The White House transcript quotes Arafat as saying vaguely: "We have expressed our — from the first day, when we were talking with the Israelis, even during the Sadat period when he was making his invitation with Mr. Begin."

Arafat had, however, prefaced the sentence with the word "definitely." The transcribed response appears to begin in mid-sentence and his initial words may have been inaudible to the

stenographer. The White House was going to some lengths to assure the accuracy of the record of the gathering of Middle East leaders, raising the possibility that some diplomatic editing had taken place.

ARRIVALS

Welcome to George and Ilse Falk, founders of the Israel Center.

BIRTH

Eli Wohlgelegen's and Aloma Halter's daughter, Dara, was born on the first day of Rosh Hashana 5756 (September 25, 1995).

CORRECTION

In yesterday's report on the prisoner exchange with the Palestinians, Environment Minister Yossi Sarid should have been quoted as saying that prisoners jailed for security offenses would be on the list of those being released, and not as reported.



Prime Minister Rabin and PLO Chairman Arafat enter the White House yesterday. (Reuters)

On the threshold of irreversibility

COMMENT

DAVID MAKOVSKY

gain dignity, a part of the equation which Israelis have been taking for granted as they focused on security. But both elements — dignity for Palestinians and security for Israelis — are needed for this agreement to succeed.

The domestic debate will now reflect less the ideological quest for "Greater Israel," and more the question of whether a peace agreement provides both peace and security. This transformation of the parameters of public debate should not be overlooked.

Nonetheless, the territorial dimension of this accord cannot be denied. Barring an unforeseen catastrophe, all the territory that the Palestinians gain will be the undeniable baseline for negotia-

While the importance of ceremonies may be debated, yesterday's signing of the Oslo 2 agreement probably marks the end of Israel's 28-year control over the Palestinian people.

While the focus over the last few months has naturally been on the territorial dimension of the accord, on Israel pulling out of all the cities in the territories, there is, in fact, an undeniable human component.

Oslo marked the conceptual breakthrough with the PLO, and the Gaza-Jericho accord followed, but though Israel will still control some 70 percent of the land, this agreement will allow most of the Palestinian people to control their own daily lives.

Despite the debates of the last three decades over who should control the territories, domination of another people has made most Israelis uncomfortable. This agreement helps the Palestinians

tions on the final disposition of territory, due to begin next May. It is hard to envision Israel returning to the cities it is now leaving. The threshold of irreversibility has been raised.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin tried to convince PLO leader Yasser Arafat that this accord will only succeed if both peoples feel a stake in creating broader stability by curbing terrorism. Indeed, the presence of foreign ministers from most of the Middle East at yesterday's ceremony suggests that perhaps their countries are also concerned about Islamic militancy.

A joint statement issued by the US, Israel, Egypt, Jordan, and the Palestinians condemned terror.

Of course, it will take more than statements and ceremonies to fight terror, but it is clear that denying the Palestinian their rights and their dignity has not bolstered Israeli security.

Journalists blast PA's restrictions on press freedom

JON IMMANUEL

REPORTERS without Frontiers, a Paris-based journalists' rights group, yesterday issued its first yearly report, which severely criticized Palestinian Authority violations of press freedoms. The group also demanded changes in a two-month-old press law the PA designed to impose conformity on the press.

"Pressure, harassment, arrests, and suspensions have been the means used to stifle the independence of the press. In most cases, these measures have not respected any legal procedure. Besides this, a restrictive press law has been adopted," the report said.

"The Palestinian Authority has not hesitated to use violence to achieve its ends," the report continued, quoting examples of PA ministers' guards beating up reporters and the forced closure of Arabic newspapers in the territories.

The PA said it has been necessary to suspend press freedoms, because many reporters were really political activists inciting the public against the PA. Fatah media chief Diab Al-Jabir gave the example of a potentially explosive article which led to the suspension of the Hamas newspaper *Al-Wakef*. The article accused a Russian circus of being the PA

of engaging in sexual promiscuity and spreading AIDS in Gaza.

Al-Nahar was suspended for a month for its pro-Jordanian stance on Jerusalem. *Al-Quds* was suspended for a day for prominently displaying an advertisement condemning "immoral" entertainment in Gaza and a news agency article from Damascus about opposition to the PA.

Reporters without Frontiers was especially critical of Article 37 of the PA press law, which restricts criticism of the police, and Article 47, which permits the seizure of newspapers which violate Article 37.

Information Minister Yasser Abed Rabbo defended the PA's actions and said its press laws are more liberal than those of neighboring Arab countries. "It will enable us to guarantee the rights of our citizens," he said.

The press law supports press freedom, Rabbo said, because a minister must appeal to the courts, rather than the police, to restrain publication, effectively limiting a minister's power to prevent publication.

Hatem Abdel Qader, head of publications at the ministry, said the law was designed to organize, not restrict, the press.

"Total freedom means total chaos," he said.

YIELDING

(Continued from page 1)

til the circle of peace is closed, which must include Syria and Lebanon," Clinton said.

A first secretary at the Syrian Embassy attended the event, whereas Damascus sent no one to the two previous Israeli-Palestinian signings or to the signing of the Israeli-Jordanian peace treaty last October.

Rabin later told Israeli reporters that in their bilateral meeting preceding the signing, Clinton said he would consider Israel's request to commute the life sentence of convicted spy Jonathan Pollard. But Rabin said that "no promises were made."

Clinton did pledge to sell a higher grade of supercomputers to Israel.

Later in the day, the international donors to the Palestinian Authority met at the State Department to discuss funding of long-term infrastructure, housing, and industrial zone assistance to the autonomous areas.

Sailor injured by exploding grenade

ALON PINKAS

A NAVY sailor was seriously wounded last night while trying to throw a hand grenade from his patrol vessel off the coast of south Lebanon.

As the ship approached the beach, the sailor attempted to throw a grenade as part of a training exercise and it exploded in his hand, seriously wounding him. He was evacuated to Rambam Hospital in Haifa.

OC Navy Adam Ami Ayalon has appointed an investigating committee.

Winning cards & numbers

In yesterday's Mifal Hapais daily Chance card draw, the lucky cards were the King of spades, 10 of hearts, 10 of diamonds, and ace of clubs.

In last night's Payis Hazak drawing, the holder of ticket number 101122 won NIS 1,000,000.

The holder of ticket number 871509 won a car.

Tickets numbered 514067, 543443, 314742, 319203, 821944, 112496, 098037, and 059700 won NIS 5,000. Those tickets ending in 02535, 98741, 85556, 23174, 29662, 77134, 90934, 53952, 31546, 05534, 45618, 66399, 17479, 52054, 72716, 15144, 18315, 16547, and 22100 won NIS 1,000. Tickets ending in 528, 555, 783, 517, and 219 won NIS 100. Tickets ending in 71, 03, 74, 39, and 83 won NIS 50. Tickets ending in 4 and 5 won NIS 8.

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Fatah backs Oslo 2, while opposition wavers on elections

FATAH in the territories welcomed the Oslo 2 agreement, said Marwan Barghout, general secretary of the High Committee of Fatah.

"I am sure that a new history is starting for the Palestinians," he said.

The committee issued a statement calling the agreement an important step toward Palestinian independence.

According to Barghout, Oslo 2 is far more important than the Gaza-Jericho accord, since the struggle between Israel and the Palestinians was really over Judea and Samaria, not Gaza.

Barghout said Fatah will start a campaign to explain the agreement to the public and to convince the people that Oslo 2 will improve their lives and bring them a step closer to a Palestinian state.

Another senior Fatah activist said the PA got a better agreement than expected under the present circumstances. He said, however, that some points are worthy of criticism.

For example, Fatah is still calling for the evacuation of settlers

LAMIA LAHOUD

from the old city of Hebron and a timetable for the release of all prisoners, he said.

Despite all the criticism and skepticism, Barghout said he believes that most Palestinians will support the accord.

Others said support would come only once it is implemented.

"Once they see the IDF leave and the Palestinian Police take over, they will support the agreement," said Ahmed Edik, another member of the High Committee.

According to Edik, lots of changes will take place within Fatah and the PLO in anticipation of the Palestinian elections. Edik said the young leadership of Fatah wants Yasser Arafat to include them on his lists for elections. Some Fatah activists even believe that the PLO will be abolished and a new Palestinian agency, similar to the Jewish Agency, will be established to deal with the needs of Palestinians in other countries.

Rind Malki, a spokesman for

the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, said his party rejects Oslo 2, saying it is an agreement that legitimizes Israel's presence in the territories.

"This agreement legitimizes the presence of the IDF in parts of the West Bank. Israel is no longer regarded as an occupier, although it continues to control large parts of our land," he said.

Malki admitted, however, that his party had not yet developed a strategy to deal with the new reality.

According to Malki, the PFLP still refuses to participate in the elections, but he added that it may change its position.

In the past, the opposition has conditioned its participation in the elections on the formation of an elected legislative council.

Under the agreement, the Palestinians will elect a 82-member legislative council, and a 25-member executive council.

Malki said the PFLP may consider participating in the elections if the members of the elected legislative council will be considered the local representatives of the Palestinian National Council.

Arafat has triumphed, says Hamas official

BEIRUT (Reuters) - PLO chief Yasser Arafat has triumphed over the divided Palestinian opposition and the Middle East peace process is irreversible, an official of the Islamic group Hamas said yesterday.

Hamas could only obstruct the process but could not destroy it, Mustapha Liddawi, the Lebanon representative of Hamas, said.

"In the total sum, Arafat has triumphed over the opposition," Liddawi said prior to the signing of the Oslo 2 accord.

"The (peace) process represents the international will and it will not fall in the years to come," Liddawi said.

Liddawi said opponents of the 1993 PLO-Israeli peace deal could not win because, although they had agreed in principle to wreck the agreement, they had failed to unite against it.

"The disputes among different sides of the opposition are so deep that they forbid these parties from reaching a comprehensive agreement. But we all agree on the need to wreck this treacherous (peace) process," Liddawi said.

He said the PLO-Israeli deals would not lead to an independent Palestinian state but to Palestinian-controlled cantons in the territories.



Three armed members of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine scrawl 'Taba accord will never bring Palestine back' on the wall of Ein el-Hilweh refugee camp in Sidon yesterday. (Reuters)

Arafat and Fatah start preparing for elections

YASSER Arafat's mainstream Fatah group convened Wednesday to elect local leaders in the Gaza Strip and help ease its transition to a political party ahead of Palestinian general elections.

"The countdown for the establishment of a Palestinian state has begun," said PA Housing Minister Zakaria Agha. "We are starting to restructure the movement, and we have to build on a democratic basis."

Some 1,000 Fatah activists gathered for the two-day event in

a Gaza City hall festooned with posters urging that "Democracy is needed for constructing the Fatah movement."

Yesterday, they were to elect 11 local government leaders for "northern Gaza," one of seven newly delineated districts. Six more such conferences are planned in coming weeks to choose local leaders in the other districts.

The plan is an effort to decentralize self-rule in Gaza, where Arafat has been criticized for be-

ing too involved in the minutiae of government. Conference delegates said it was also a means of placating Fatah activists frustrated by the current autonomy government structure.

But with Arafat's party electing only its own members to government positions, it also reflected the absence of multi-party rule. That is expected to change early next year, when the Palestinians are to hold general elections in line with the Oslo 2 accord. (AP)

O.J. RECESS

(Continued from page 1)

sive South Lawn to the bulging East Room, there was no mingling of scores of Jewish and Arab-Americans, no cramming in of nearly every last member of Congress in what made the September 13, 1993, ceremony the hottest ticket in town.

As Rabin said in his address: "Yes, I know, our speeches are already repeating themselves. Perhaps this picture has already become routine. The handshakes no longer set your heart pulsing. Your loving hearts no longer pound with emotion."

Others were divided on whether White House signing ceremonies - this was the third in two years - are less of a public draw.

"We're getting used to this, you know?" said Rania Alaila, a spokeswoman for the Jordan Information Bureau here. "This was a bit anticlimactic because of the wait" for the agreement to be concluded.

As CNN signed off from the White House, a trailer across the bottom said the Simpson coverage would resume imminently.

Palestinians in Lebanon, Syria protest accord

SIDON (AP) - Palestinian dissidents in Syria and Lebanon yesterday accused Yasser Arafat of betraying their quest for statehood, claiming his new autonomy accord with Israel would consecrate the occupation of the West Bank.

Refugees in Ein el-Hilweh, the largest of 11 Palestinian camps in Lebanon, staged a protest strike as Arafat and Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin flew to Washington to sign the Oslo 2 document.

The camp, on the southeastern outskirts of Sidon, is home to 70,000 refugees. Life in the shantytown was paralyzed for four hours as representatives of anti-Arafat guerrilla groups denounced the accord reached Sunday in Egypt.

"The Taba accord strengthens the (Israeli) occupation and endorses the division of our occupied homeland," said Abu Ali Hassan, a representative of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

It failed to secure the "minimum interests and aspirations" of the Palestinians, he told a news conference. "The Palestinian people will continue the struggle inside and outside the occupied homeland with all available means to scuttle the Oslo and Taba agreements," he added.

"The Taba accord is an unjust accord against the Palestinian people and will lead to disasters in the region," said Jumas Abdullah, a member of the central committee of the radical PFLP-General Command.

The group, led by former Syrian army Capt. Ahmed Jibril, has for long been at odds with Arafat's Palestine Liberation Organization.

Syria urges US to push Israel

DAMASCUS (Reuters) - Syria urged the United States yesterday to persuade Israel to withdraw from the Golan Heights and to jump-start the stalled Syrian-Israeli peace talks.

The comments appeared in the official government newspaper *Tishreen*, which also welcomed a statement by former US secretary of state James Baker that Washington should pursue a more assertive diplomacy in the talks.

"There should be a decisive diplomacy on the side of the sponsor of the peace process, as being a partner and honest mediator," it said.

US Secretary of State Warren Christopher was on Wednesday more optimistic than his predecessor about moving the stalled talks forward, saying the time may now be ripe to nudge Syria toward peace with Israel.

WEIZMAN

for trying to stab a soldier, Sued July 19, who stabbed a yeshiva student, Marcel Ralovsky, 22, who is serving three years for possession of a knife and explosives, and Alisha Abu Hamad, 23, sentenced to 12 years for trying to stab a policeman on the Temple Mount.

Liba'i said he is examining the files of the other Palestinian women prisoners that have been brought to him, and will soon bring all of those cases before the president. Another eight such files were brought to Weizman last night.

The files of the murderers of two Jewish settlers, Zvi Klein and David Manos, had not reached Beit Hanassi by yesterday evening.

Weizman, who had been expected to announce his decision

on pardons before the Washington signing ceremony, was clearly in no hurry. He made it clear that no releases could be expected before next week.

"This is an extremely serious matter. We have to try to uphold the agreement, but it is possible it will take me two or three days [to decide on the pardons]," Weizman said as he met with Liba'i.

"Together with Liba'i, I shall consider whether to commute the sentences or release some of those ... who have murdered Jews or Arabs - despite the fact that I do not condone their deeds," he added.

Weizman was reportedly considering the possibility of commuting the sentence of Popper, who killed seven Arab workers in Rishon LeZion in May 1990. Pop-

per was sentenced to seven concurrent life sentences and an additional 20 years for the attempted murder of 10 others.

He was also looking into the issue of pardoning three other Jews serving life sentences: Danny Eizenman, convicted for murdering an Arab taxi driver and sentenced in 1986; Yoram Skolnik convicted of murdering a bound and disarmed terrorist in Samaria in March 1993; and Ze'ev Wolf.

Another case being considered for pardon is that of American Jew Alan Goodman, who killed two Palestinians and wounded nine, in 1982, at the entrance to the Temple Mount.

Meanwhile, the committee on prisoner pardons, headed by Haim Klugman, is expected to meet this morning to consider pardons for 17 security prisoners and several hundred criminals.

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Hebron protesters mark commitment to city

THE AS Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat signed the Oslo 2 agreement in Washington yesterday, Jews from around Israel and the territories gathered in Hebron both to protest the accord and to dance in the streets in celebration of their unwavering commitment to keeping a Jewish presence in the city.

"On this day of national mourning over the treacherous agreement, there is no better place to be than in Hebron," said Nadia Matar of Efrat, who heads the Women in Green.

"This is a sad day for the Jewish people," she said. "The government is repudiating the 2,000-year-old dream of the Jews."

But a few minutes later, Matar, holding an Israeli flag, was dancing in a circle of women to joyous Klezmer music.

Trying to explain the seeming contradiction, Matar said, "This is a sign of strength, a sign of faith. We're dancing because we know there will always be Jews in Hebron."

Thousands went to pray at the Machpela Cave to protest the signing, and then marched to a protest gathering at the Avraham Avinu Synagogue.

Arye Ravitzky, a pensioner from Haifa, said the first time he came to Hebron was in 1937. He

HERB KEINON

compared the situation in Israel now to the situation that faced the Jews in Poland when he left there 60 years ago.

"The Arabs are advancing step by step," Ravitzky said. "First Jericho and Gaza, then the rest of the cities. We are standing at the threshold of another Holocaust."

Elyakim Ha'etzi - who said he thought the Klezmer music was inappropriate - said that "No authority among the people of Israel has the right to forfeit any parts of Eretz Yisrael."

Former Prisoner of Zion Yosef Mendelevitch said that, "If the order is given to evacuate Hebron, we will come here by the thousands and do whatever is necessary."

Likud MK Ariel Sharon, who was greeted by a thunderous ovation, told the crowd, "Events will be determined here, in Hebron, not in Washington ... You will be called upon to come here numerous times in the future."

At one point during the speech, Sharon asked that a placard with a picture of Rabin and Arafat over the caption "Blood Brothers" be removed.

Noam Aron, head of Jewish settlement in Hebron, responded to comments by various government ministers that the dream of

Greater Israel is over, by saying, "The dream will remain long after they are long forgotten."

The Jewish people have been in Hebron for some 4,000 years, Aron added. "Thirteen hundred years ago, the Arabs conquered the city. They are the conquerors here. They are the foreign element in Hebron," he said.

The carnival-like atmosphere was bolstered by the goods being sold by various merchants, including black felt kippot with the word Hebron imprinted on them, and small paintings of the Machpela Cave over the verse, "For the sake of the fathers, salvation will come to the sons."

The Associated Press adds: Meanwhile, on the road to Hebron yesterday, Palestinians tore down sections of a chain-link fence surrounding the Dehaishe refugee camp outside Bethlehem. Protesters pushed past soldiers and pulled down sections of the 5-meter fence, before border policemen arrived in riot gear and threw stun grenades and tear gas to disperse the crowd.

The fence was put up in the early days of the intifada to keep camp residents from hurling rocks at passing Israeli vehicles.

Dehaishe was put under military curfew after the police broke up the demonstration and arrested several Palestinian activists.



Demonstrators carrying black flags protest the Oslo 2 deal yesterday outside the Jerusalem International Convention Center. The sign reads: 'Oslo 2 = the destruction of the Land of Israel.' (Brian Hender)

Opposition holds alternate signing, declares loyalty to Land of Israel

SARAH HONIG

OPPOSITION leaders and MKs, settlers' representatives, and extra-parliamentary groups last night held an alternate signing ceremony at the Jerusalem International Convention Center, affixing their signatures to a covenant declaring loyalty to the Land of Israel.

The ceremony, a protest against the White House signing of the Oslo 2 accord, was held under a banner quoting the opening phrase of the Declaration of Independence: "In Eretz Yisrael, the Jewish Nation was born."

The audience was shown a film of prime minister David Ben-Gurion declaring the state's independence in 1948.

Among those who signed the declaration were Likud leader Binyamin Netanyahu, MK Yitzhak Shamir, Tsomet leader Rafeal Eitan, National Religious

Party leader Ze'ev Hammer, and Moledet leader Rehavam Ze'evi.

The declaration read, "The history of the country, since the decision on partition by the United Nations, proves that that attempt to obtain peace by abandoning parts of our land, is in vain. This has not increased our security but increased the appetite of those who are besieging us. This has not built good relations with our Arab neighbors ... but has created cities of refuge for terror aimed at all Israelis."

Outside the auditorium, anti-government demonstrators with black arm bands hoisted black flags.

They included retired military officers, university professors, and rabbis.

Meanwhile, hundreds of Zo Artzeem supporters tried to block the entrance to the Jerusalem Convention Center, causing a major traffic snarl. In Tel Aviv, pro-Oslo and anti-Oslo demonstrators faced off at two major intersections. The protests ended peacefully.

Netanyahu said that "the current process which has led to the capitulation in Washington is being masterminded and managed by a minority in the nation. This minority is dragging the nation to the brink of an awful abyss, without asking the people, without being authorized by them, without so much as even seeking a mandate."

Worst of all, Netanyahu went on, "this is being done with such euphoria, elation, enthusiasm

and ceremony. "This is unique in the annals of Israel. Yes, we have lost territory in the past. We have known defeat and calamity, but there was never a desire, a rush to cede the land that is the cradle of our heritage."

"No Jew hitherto ever longed to give up slices of the homeland. The most painful of all now is the insufferable ease of this withdrawal and the alacrity to relinquish vital territory. This evinces defeatism and ideological bankruptcy. If not stemmed, this process will not end here. If we have no right to Beit El and Shilo, what right have we to Jaffa, Lod, Acre, and Jerusalem?"

Hammer warned that "the Palestinian state which is being born from this disastrous process will be a terror state in the 1967 lines with Jerusalem as its capital."

Families of terror victims to Weiss: We feel betrayed

MICHAEL YUDELMAN

FAMILIES of terror victims are demanding to delay the release of Palestinian prisoners at least until the Palestinian Authority turns in the terrorists who murdered Jews and found shelter in Gaza and Jericho.

At a meeting with Knesset Speaker Shevah Weiss yesterday, a group of family members protested the government's "abandoning" the demands to extradite the murderers.

Dr. Arye Bachrach, father of Ohad Bachrach, who was murdered with Uri Shohar in Wadi Kelt in July, said the families felt they were "being betrayed by the government."

The families reminded Weiss that he had insisted on the extradition of John Demjanjuk, while in this case, Bachrach said, "where the terrorism is much closer to us, the government is not taking such a firm stand. We told him that this smells of a double moral standard, and that we feel bad about the government's position on this issue."

Weiss promised the families that he would pass their sentiments and demands on to President Ezer Weizman and Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

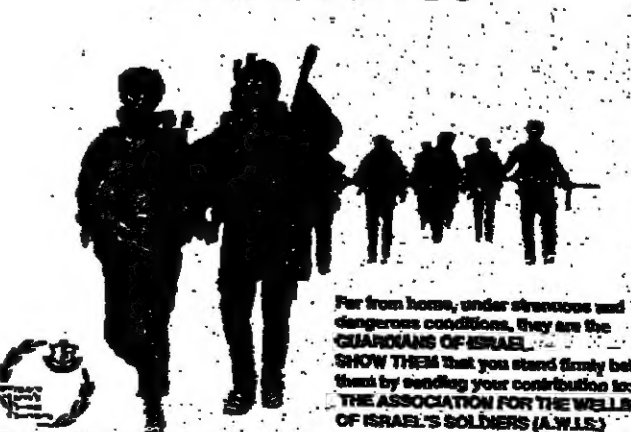
But he added that he intends to vote in favor of the Oslo 2 agreement.

Freij rushed to hospital

Bethlehem Mayor Elias Freij, 75, was rushed to Jerusalem's Hadassah-University Hospital yesterday in fair-to-serious condition, hospital officials said. Freij, also Palestinian Authority tourism minister, recently underwent heart bypass surgery.

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abc - 346



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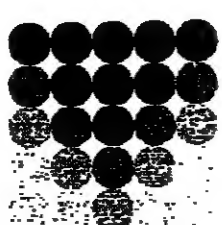
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Facts on the ground

THAT yesterday's signing ceremony in Washington was a predictable affair did not detract from its impressiveness. If nothing else, it was testimony to America's primacy in world affairs, to the fact that few governments can refuse an American invitation. Only the White House could have gathered representatives of the world's most powerful countries, as well as bitter Middle Eastern enemies who only recently would not sit together in the same room, to celebrate this event.

No one can help hoping that President Bill Clinton's greeting was prescient. In saying "I welcome you to the White House for this milestone on the path to reconciliation" he expressed the wishes of all peace-loving people. But neither the flowery, gesture-filled and sometimes embarrassingly cliché-ridden speeches of the numerous participants, nor the obviously friendly ambience of the event could conceal an obvious fact: The fate of the agreement will be determined not in the corridors of Western power but on the ground.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin was the only one of last night's speakers who said aloud what all the participants in the festivities must know: that the agreement is hostage to terrorism; that no lofty vision of a prosperous, peaceful future can withstand the sight of burned bodies in a bombed bus. In an almost belligerent tone, he vowed that Israel will fiercely and without letup combat the terrorists - if necessary, alone. And he clearly implied that the cooperation of the Palestinian Authority in this fight will play a major role in determining the fate of the agreement.

Not surprisingly, both the Israeli and Palestinian speakers addressed not only the White House guests but their home audiences. Yasser Arafat and Mahmoud Abbas (Abu Mazen) brought up their claim to Jerusalem, pressed for the immediate release of all imprisoned terrorists, and pleaded for financial support from the world community. Rabin stressed Israel's birthright to the Land of Israel - the cradle of its nationhood and culture - and, using the most impressive euphemism of the evening, said the nation was not "retreating" from parts of its rightful heritage, but sharing them for the sake of peace.

What struck Rabin as most significant was that seated on one stage were King Hussein, Arafat and himself, a tableau only dreamers and poets could have imagined a short three years ago.

Yet the facts on the ground are not as encouraging. The inescapable fact is that despite the show of rapprochement in Washington, Judea, Samaria and Gaza had to be closed off for the week of the signing. And the personal safety of Israelis living beyond the Green Line will soon depend on the efficacy of the PA and its willingness to combat terrorism.

That there are major differences between the PLO's attitude to terrorism and Israel's has been made clear by the PLO negotiators' ad-

mant demand to free all Hamas terrorists together with Fatah prisoners. With perhaps a few exceptions, Israel will undoubtedly meet this demand. Thousands of expert gunmen, bombers and knifemen will be turned loose in the territories with only the Palestinian Police to curb them.

Even more discouraging is the difference between what Arafat says to American audiences and what he says and does in areas under his control. Like other Arab leaders, he talks of democratic elections when he means nothing of the sort. He will be running for the presidency of the PA with no opponents. And in the 17 months of his rule over Gaza and Jericho his regime has proved no less corrupt, arbitrary and ruthless than other regimes in the region.

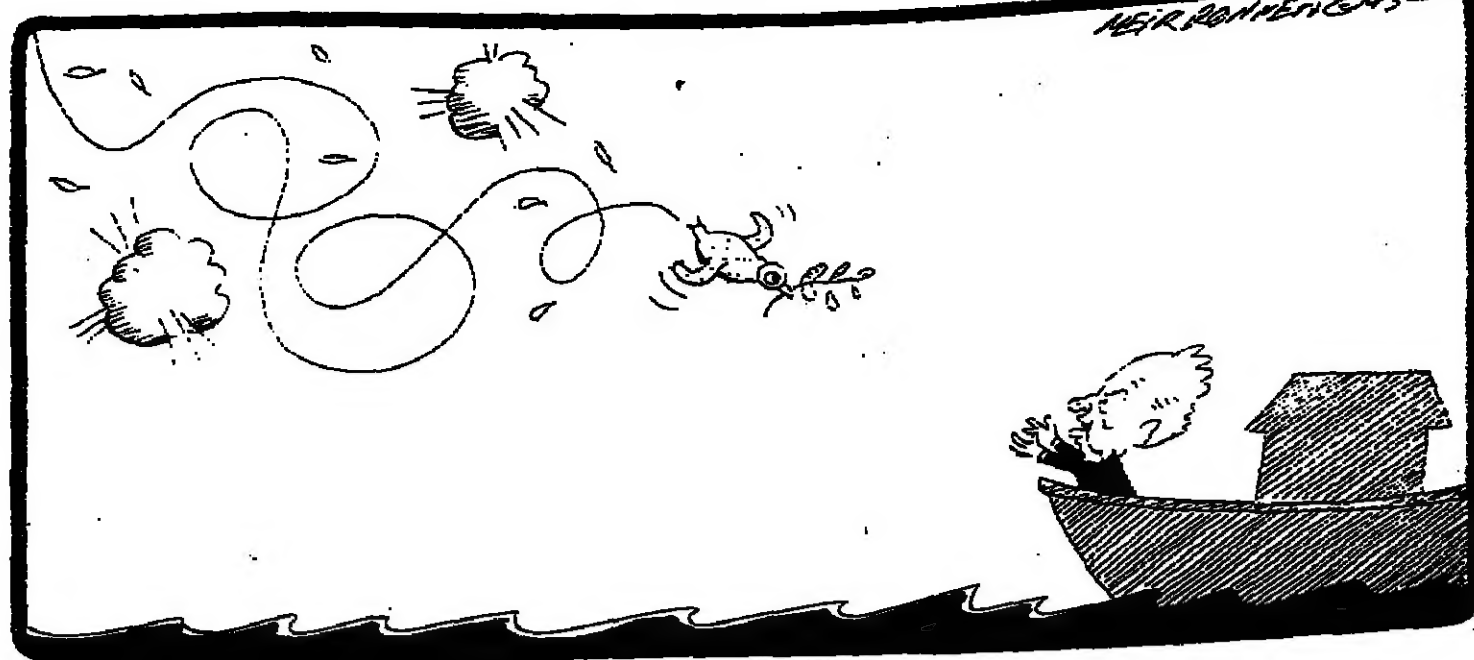
Arafat is obviously interested in keeping terrorist activity limited until Israel's withdrawal is completed, lest the government come under popular pressure to change course. But his willingness to wage a real war against terror is in question. The government and army trumpet every round of arrests his various police forces perform among Hamas and Islamic Jihad activists, but the vast majority of the detainees have been released. One much-publicized detention of 70 Hamas members ended with their release on the very same day.

One clause in the Taba agreement addresses what may be the most important component in the relationship between Israelis and Palestinians: the education for peace, the only thing that can counter the culture of hatred which so dominates the Middle East. It stipulates that "both sides will act to strengthen understanding and tolerance, prevent incitement and hostile propaganda."

Unfortunately, Arafat seems dedicated to doing the exact opposite. On the day he signed the Declaration of Principles two years ago, he addressed the Palestinian people on Jordan Television, assuring them that the agreement was nothing more than the implementation of the 1974 PLO Plan of Phases, a 10-point plan for the destruction of Israel in stages, the first of which is "the establishment of a national authority on any part of Palestinian soil that is liberated or from which the Israelis withdraw."

He repeated the same assertion last week, in an interview published in Arab papers in Jordan and Jerusalem. Speaking on Jordanian television just before departing for Washington, he again accused "Israeli extremists" of cooperating with the Islamic Jihad suicide bombers in Beit Lid, which killed 22 Israeli soldiers. He also accused Israel of "completely destroying" the infrastructure in the territories.

Pledges to destroy Israel and Goebbelsian lies intended to arouse paranoia are hardly indicative of a burning passion for peace. Perhaps even more than the increase in terrorism, this kind of conduct on Arafat's part has made Israelis less than enthusiastic about the Washington gathering. As every poll shows, a majority of Jewish voters are opposed to the Oslo 2 agreement.



The great Taba gamble

MOSHE ZAK

SHIMON Peres should thank Senator Jesse Helms and Congressman Benjamin Gilman. Had they not proposed limitations and restrictions on American aid to the Palestinian Authority in both houses of Congress, he would have spent many more sleepless nights in Taba.

Their proposals gave Peres the leverage to warn Yasser Arafat that delays and new demands might cost him American financial aid, as there is growing opposition in Congress to American support for the PA.

The widespread support in Congress for Helms' and Gilman's objections angered the Israeli Embassy staff in Washington, who didn't understand the full significance of the proposed limitations on economic aid to Arafat.

They were angry at their own failure to deliver on the government's promises to Arafat: the procurement of a majority in Congress in favor of American aid to the PA. So they blamed the opposition in Israel for encouraging congressional opponents of the Israeli-Palestinian alliance on foreign aid.

One might think that neither Helms nor Gilman has a mind of his own.

The senators and congressmen who laid down conditions to the PLO certainly did not intend to speed up the signing of the Taba document. Their intention was to "save Israel from itself," or, more precisely, from its risky gambling of everything, without safeguards. They meant to re-

mind Israel that Arafat hasn't kept earlier agreements that he has made.

Israel is an independent country. It has a perfect right to waive guarantees, while granting huge concessions to the other side. But it is the US that will have to bear the financial brunt of the execution of these plans, and it has to prevent Israel from getting carried away by Arafat's unrealistic flights of rhetoric, when he himself has proven that he is quite capable of denying them later.

The slogan "Save Israel from itself" was first used by Americans and Israelis lobbying for US pressure on Israel to withdraw to

senator's suggestions were in the way of constructing American "early-warning stations," although this wasn't how they were described. Their purpose would be to check up on PLO fulfillment of its commitments.

Congress was more cautious than the Israeli sponsors of US support for aid to the PA. It wasn't prepared to supply credit without receiving guarantees in return.

WHEN PERES warned Arafat that if he dragged his feet he might lose American economic aid, he was actually showing him an alternative.

Sen. Helms and Rep. Gilman tried to save Israel from itself, from relying on Arafat without binding guarantees

the 1949 lines, on the grounds that American pressure could change Israeli public opinion to support far-reaching concessions to the Arab states and the Palestinians.

But Helms and Gilman did not intend to change Israeli public opinion through pressure.

They did aim to put pressure on the PLO to keep what it pledged in the Oslo and Cairo agreements: to fight terrorism, to annul the anti-Israel clauses in the Palestinian Covenant, and to refrain from provocations in Jerusalem.

The congressman's and the

only way to avoid the limitations and conditions on American aid was to hold a public ceremony at the White House which would grant the Taba document significance as a breakthrough toward peace.

But the Taba document isn't really an agreement. Nor is it an Israeli-Palestinian compromise. It is an array of Israeli concessions to Yasser Arafat. Arafat agreed not to ask for more - not because he wanted to let Peres and his aides go home for Rosh Hashana, but because of the date of the aid vote in both houses of Congress.

The most he was willing to give Peres was a *shana tova* in Hebrew, a kind of sop to the Israeli public - and even this only after he had received every possible concession, as Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak pointed out to him.

The concessions have all been written down and bound in a fat book. The book does contain three undertakings from the PA to Israel: commitments to annul the covenant clauses calling for the destruction of Israel, to put a stop to hostile propaganda, and to wage war against terrorism.

But most of its 400 pages are devoted to what Israel will be giving the Palestinians. Israel will be giving them concrete things, while the Palestinians do no more than repeat, in even more obscure terms, the clauses of the Oslo agreement, which they didn't honor.

The Taba document contains no sanctions in the event the PA reneges on its obligations. As before, Israel is staking everything, not keeping any cards in reserve.

At the last moment, Helms and Gilman tried to save Israel from this. They attempted to procure guarantees for Israel, to stop Arafat setting up his front line around Jerusalem, in Bethlehem and Ramallah, before he has ceased PA activity in Jerusalem.

It is regrettable that the government was incapable of exploiting this initiative, aside from prodding Arafat to finish the Taba negotiations.

The writer, a veteran journalist, comments on current affairs.

Early elections: It's the only way

ALLAN E. SHAPIRO

KNESSET approval of the Taba agreement and the setting of the date for early elections should come together, as part of one package. This is the only way the problem of legitimacy, derived from the nature of the government's razor-thin Knesset majority, can be met. It is also the effective reply to extra-parliamentary threats to the execution of the Oslo 2 accord.

The division in the Knesset is apparently so close that the possibility of a tie cannot be discounted. In such a case, the nature of the parliamentary action involved could be crucial. If the vote came on a motion to approve the Taba agreement, the motion would be defeated. The same fate would befall a directly contradictory motion of no confidence presented by the opposition.

It would be a parliamentary nightmare if the decision on such a fateful issue depended on the form in which the matter was placed before the Knesset.

The date for the election of a new Knesset, which under the new law will also be the date for the direct election of the prime minister, must be advanced. There is no other way.

The government should be permitted a degree of flexibility in choosing the date. However, the principle should be that the new Knesset and the directly elected prime minister should be chosen before the start of the negotiations on the final settlement. This is an outside date. The sooner the better.

However, three months is the time generally agreed to be required to organize elections. The final-status negotiations are scheduled to commence in the spring. Hence, there is little spread between the earliest and the latest dates.

Whatever date is selected, what happens between now and then? Perhaps the answer came

from President Ezer Weizman, whose lack of enthusiasm for the government's handling of the negotiations that led to the Taba accord is no secret.

In a pre-Rosh Hashana interview in *Ha'aretz*, in response to a question about what he would do now, if he were conducting the negotiations, Weizman responded: "After we have left Gaza and Jericho, it is necessary to leave Jenin and Nablus, and move on

Camp David, to move out of Jenin and Nablus and to get on with the final settlement.

Indeed, the constitutional necessity of bringing the Taba agreement to the Knesset for approval is far from clear. Reliance is placed on a legal opinion rendered a year ago by Attorney General Michael Ben-Yair. However, that opinion is directed to treaties, and even with regard to treaties, Ben-Yair concluded that

A new Knesset and directly elected premier should be chosen before final-status negotiations begin

immediately to the matter of the final settlement."

Under the terms of the Taba agreement, apparently there is some delay involved before the redeployment of Israeli forces from the centers of the major West Bank cities gets underway. The necessity of completing the Hebron bypass road requires more time. Hence, advancing the date of the elections need not interfere with implementation of the major provisions of the accord.

In any case, redeployment of armed forces is beyond question within the authority of the government, with the Taba agreement or without it.

THIS IS true not just in the legal sense of the government's constitutional authority over the armed forces. It is also true in the political sense. Redeployment from the major Arab urban centers in full accordance with the Camp David agreements, which the Likud claims to accept almost as holy writ. Hence, the call of Weizman, Menachem Begin's defense minister and partner at

there is no constitutional arrangement, only a custom of bringing them before the Knesset.

The Taba accord is no treaty. The draft constitution for Israel, prepared by a group led by Prof. Uriel Reichman, provided for Knesset ratification of treaties, defining a treaty, in the accepted manner, as a written agreement "between the State of Israel and a foreign state or an international organization."

Does the Knesset opposition claim that the Palestinian Au-

thority is a foreign state or an international organization?

Here the American distinction between a treaty and an executive agreement is helpful. A treaty, under the US Constitution, must be ratified by the Senate. Not so an executive agreement. Such vital international agreements as the Yalta agreement between Roosevelt, Churchill, and Stalin, and the postwar Potsdam agreement were executive agreements, not requiring ratification.

Opinions differ as to what matters can be covered by executive agreements. As a minimum, they cover all matters that are within the US presidential prerogative. The disposition of forces is a prime example. What is a presidential prerogative in the US, is the prerogative of the government in Israel.

In terms of these distinctions, the Taba agreement is an executive agreement, certainly in all matters pertaining to the redeployment of forces.

There is no real problem with regard to its legality. The political problem that Taba represents - determining a vital national issue under conditions of national and parliamentary cleavage - can only be dealt by advancing the date of the elections.

The writer is a legal and political commentator.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

THE THREAT OF IRREDENTISM

Sir, - In his contribution of August 11 "The three percent minority," Abba Eban refers to the fact that since 1967, only three percent of Israel's Jewish population have chosen to make their homes in Judea and Samaria, and that they constitute an ethnic minority in these areas. Subsequently, Mr. Eban concludes that "These areas are destined to be predominantly Palestinian" and Israel should therefore renounce them. But, allowing for the volume of Jewish settlements in certain areas to become a legitimate issue in territorial negotiations is likely to become a fatal historical mistake in the very near future.

Indeed, since 1948, only a few percent of Israel's Jewish population have chosen to make their homes in the vast Negev and only a tiny fraction of these people settled outside the cities of Beersheba and Eilat. And in the larger part of Galilee, the Israeli Jews are a minority in a predominantly Arab area.

Do we now have to assume that, at a future stage in the peace process, Mr. Eban will also advocate Israel's renunciation of parts of the Negev and Galilee - areas within the "Green Line"?

Mr. Eban was once a respected and successful foreign minister. However, he evidently chooses to ignore an ever valid and menacing

law of human nature which recently brought catastrophe in former Yugoslavia, and which will (once Palestinian authority is firmly and irreversibly established in Judea and Samaria) also become a deadly threat to Eretz Yisrael: irredentism.

Reviving the UN partition plan of 1947 and referring to the vast Arab demographic majority in substantial parts of Galilee, as well as to the emptiness of the larger part of two Negev sectors which were also designated to be part of a second Palestinian state, one of the future Arab demands will surely be that Israel renounces these areas too - and in case Israel fails to give in, the whole peace process is likely to be declared null and void.

Unfortunately, Mr. Eban's attitude, shared by the present government, will only strengthen Arab determination to keep the PLO covenant, using the infamous phased plan for the ultimate destruction of Israel. His arguments will also be instrumental for the Arabs in how to proceed during the political phase of their phased plan.

Mr. Eban, although without doubt unintentionally, has become a much appreciated colleague of Dr. Ahmed Tibi, the prime adviser of Yasser Arafat.

WIM KORTENOEVEN
The Hague.

TRANSFER

Sir, - Yosef Lapid, in his op-ed of August 2, "Double standards," states: "And what about transfer? Transfer is the idea invented by an Israeli general known as 'Gandhi' to evacuate the Palestinian population of the territories."

This is historically not correct. It was not Mr. Ze'evi's invention. The transfer of Palestinian Arabs (not "Palestinians" as today's Israelis, Jordanians and Palestinian Arabs

are "Palestinians") was first recommended by the Royal Peel Commission of 1937. Their reasoning was given in the second sentence of Chapter 1 of their report: "... But we did not expect to find so wide a gulf between them [Jews and Arabs] or one so difficult to bridge..." (fine English understatement). They cited the Turkish-Greek precedent as "destructive."

New York. H.Z. BORNSTEIN

CLEAR CHOICE

Sir, - I went to school with the late Danny Freil and made aliyah from the same part of London. Since the Oslo Agreement, 155 Israelis have been murdered by terrorists. These attacks have almost become a weekly occurrence. As one family gets up from sitting *shiva*, another takes its place.

We have become "accustomed" to such incidents, so much so that we are encouraged by the establishment to get on with our lives as if nothing had happened. The important thing is to get back to normal as quickly as possible. "Killing for nationalist motivated reasons" or "murder of the Jews" in common parlance has become an accepted part of our way of life.

I always wondered why, when an Arab is killed by the IDF when rioting, his whole town or village shuts down on strike. I thought it stupid of them for they are only stabbing themselves. But as I look around me after each attack and see all the cafes and offices "open as usual" and people going about their business, I have come to respect the Arabs more. They respect the value of their children (if not ours) but we, by continuing as normal, are devaluing ourselves.

How many more attacks will it take before the nation wakes up? We have three stark choices:

1) to continue as usual.
2) to withdraw within - erect walls and fences 20 meters high, electrify them, etc.

or
3) to go out and "explore the land," plant and build new settlements and send a clear message that the Jewish people are here to stay. For every attack that kills or maims, we will plant and build in their memory and show that they did not die for nothing.

The choice is clear.
Ofra. AARON FACTOR

مكتبة الامير

Sick joy of retreat

ARIEL SHARON

I felt pain after the agreement was signed this week; pain caused not merely by the government's mistaken, irresponsible decisions, but chiefly by its ministers' devilish joy at the "defeat" of their foes - the settlers. A very premature joy, I believe.

Sometimes, you have no choice but to retreat; sometimes you hold on to something not yours for bargaining purposes. But to give up something that's entirely yours with cries of joy - the joy of retreat - is a sick phenomenon.

The devil's advocates like to make comparisons: distorting history, they have made the late Menachem Begin their symbol.

At Camp David, they contend, president Carter imprisoned Israel's premier and his advisers with Egypt's president and his aides for 13 days until they reached agreement. But at Camp David, despite American pressure, the hours of sleep were normal, and Begin conducted consultations with his government every day.

At Taba, on the other hand, Israel chose this mode of negotiations of its own free will, without outside pressure. And it surrendered, too, of its own free will.

Today, through cooperation with the US, Israel can obtain almost anything it wants. But, instead of promoting the country's interests, the government is busy helping Arafat, despite his violation of almost every clause of the Oslo agreement; it works for Jordan's benefit; and it aids President Mubarak, even though he now leads the anti-Israel Arab bloc.

The government hasn't demanded the release of Jonathan Pollard, nor has it pressed for the return of MIAs about whom Arafat has information. It refrains from demanding, in return for releasing Palestinian terrorists, the extradition of murderers who now roam free in the PA-ruled areas, or take short vacations in prison.

Terrorists, murderers with blood on their hands, will soon be freed. That is the height of abomination.

IN A campaign to mislead the public, Arafat's Israeli advocates

claim there is no other way. They don't want a binational state, they don't want to rule over another people, they say.

What do they really mean? Are they planning a divided Jerusalem? After all, about 150,000 Arabs live in the city. Do they intend to "transfer" 850,000 Israeli Arabs?

We have never proposed granting Israeli citizenship to the Arab residents of Judea and Samaria; all have Jordanian passports. And there are other peaceful, acceptable solutions to the threat of binationalism.

The foreign minister helps the Palestinians rewrite history

The prime minister continues to talk about the Jordan River as Israel's security border, and mentions the Jordan Rift. He should know what any divisional commander knows: To wage a defensive battle there, forces must be deployed to a depth of at least 40-50 km. from the Arava. For this, a permanent foothold is needed on the mountain ridge, and west of it.

Even the Taba signing ceremony was shameful. Arafat, proud of his language, spoke in Arabic. Our foreign minister, a prisoner of inherent servility, spoke English.

Nor can one ignore the minister's *bon mot*: "Two peoples born in the same cradle." As though it were at all possible to compare the two histories!

The Jewish people settled in Eretz Yisrael 2,500 years before the Moslems ever reached it. That 2,000 years later the Moslems adopted our forefather Abraham as one of their prophets doesn't grant them preferred status here. Nor does the Koran, written a millennium after the Bible, and which never mentions

Jerusalem, give them privileges in this country. Since when must an Israeli minister help the Palestinians rewrite history?

This is a Jewish state in which Arabs can live in dignity if they abide by the law. They can, of course, practice religious ritual according to their faith. We shall never emulate Arafat's "Minister of Religious Affairs" Hassan Tahboub, who recently said, "Jews will not be able to pray on the Temple Mount, the Machpela Cave, or Rachel's Tomb, once these shrines come under Palestinian control."

Hebron must remain in our hands: not because of the 400 Jews who live near the cave, but because of the 4,000 years of Jewish history; because of the Tomb of the Patriarchs and Matriarchs, that glorious monument whose like no other city can boast; because of David's kingdom in Hebron.

Neither the Israel of the left nor that of the National Camp has the right to concede Hebron, Rachel's Tomb, Shilo, Beit El and Joseph's Tomb. Certainly no government has the right to give up the Temple Mount.

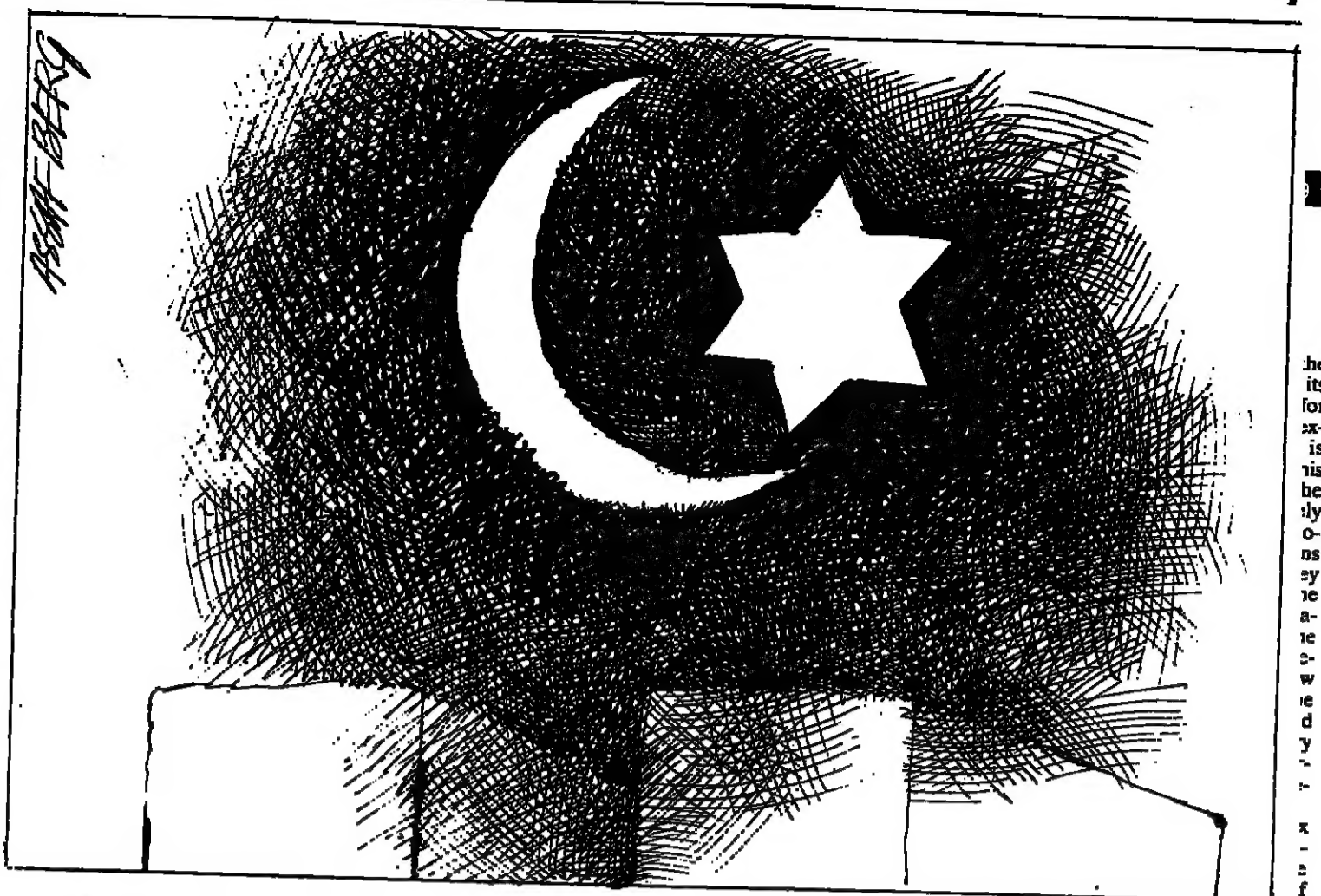
Governments come and go, and so do generations: it is our great privilege to hold these sacred possessions in trust for future generations. We have no right to transfer them to alien hands.

A note on the government's recent chastisement of Diaspora Jews: "You live abroad. Don't intervene in Israel's affairs."

Strange. During Likud administrations, opposition leaders (today's cabinet ministers) made every effort to solicit foreign intervention against the government, including urging the US to reduce assistance to Israel.

For decades now, I have repeatedly declared that Israel is not just an Israeli project, but the responsibility of all the world's Jews. What happens to Israel will affect the situation, even the destiny, of Jews everywhere. It is not only their right but their duty to make their voices heard.

The writer, a Likud MK, is a former defense minister.



Wachsman's handshake of faith

JOSHUA BERMAN

"The love of God is the root of all evil; religion the tragedy of mankind. There scarcely exists a religion which has not been responsible for wars and tyrannies." (A.N. Wilson, Against Religion.)

FOR two years, the Rabin-Arafat handshake at the White House held the title "handshake of the century."

That was until last week, when Yehuda Wachsman, father of slain soldier Nachshon Wachsman, shook hands and issued a joint communiqué with Sheikh Bader Yassin, father of Abd al-Karim Yassin. This was the terrorist seen on television screens around the world last October jostling the captive Wachsman. He would later riddle Wachsman's body with bullets, moments before being gunned down by IDF commandos.

Last week's encounter, orchestrated by the Hebrew weekly *Yerushalayim*, challenges us. What enabled these two men to bridge the chasms of their enduring pain and the deep animosities that divide their two peoples?

The transcript of their dialogue and resolution reveals that their trust was built on a most unlikely terrain - the plain of religious faith.

Wachsman: "According to both our Torah and the Koran, we are

responsible for our actions. The prophet Mohammed said on many occasions, 'Do evil and you will be punished; act meritoriously and you will be rewarded...' On Rosh Hashana we believe that the Almighty judges each person according to his deeds. Let us jointly declare our determination to fight violence through deterrence and education."

Yassin: "It is a great honor for me to join you in this declaration."

Wachsman: "We have to educate our two peoples to look beyond what was, and to open a new chapter. On Rosh Hashana we ask the Almighty to erase all of our iniquities from the past year, and to allow us to enter the new year as innocent as if we were infants. This is also found in your Koran."

Yassin's translator: "Yes, certainly. We call this *tauba*, that is, 'repentance.'"

Wachsman: "The murderers of

ran and in the Torah, our lot would be greatly improved."

THESE WORDS bear testimony that religion provides a vocabulary, a common mindset through which honest men of faith can effectively communicate.

Yehuda Wachsman and Sheikh Bader Yassin each saw in the other an unshakable reverence for the scriptural verse. Each freely accessed the oral tradition of exegesis on his scripture as a guide to the conduct of daily affairs. One had his Halacha; the other, his Shari'a. Together, they cast their eyes toward the same omnipotent God of justice.

British Chief Rabbi Dr. Jonathan Sacks refutes Wilson's critique of religion in his most recent work, *Faith in the Future*.

"Religion," he writes, "is not the source of evil. Humanity is, and religion is sometimes powerless to prevent it."

A year ago, the world watched, on edge and helpless, as a hooded youngster raised his hand to smite his fellow man. Last week, their fathers attempted to salvage hope from iniquity through a handshake of faith.

The writer is a lecturer at Nishmat - Center for Advanced Jewish Study for Women.

Weapon of the weak

GABRIEL SHEFFER

PALESTINIAN and Arab terrorism is the ace in the pack for politicians like Shimon Peres, Yitzhak Rabin, Arie Sharon, and Rafael Eitan, as well as for settlement leaders and their supporters on the right.

Ceaselessly, these politicians declare that terrorism will only intensify after the signing of the Oslo 2 agreement.

Concealing their real reasons for objecting to any reasonable agreement with the Palestinians - a deep-seated hatred for and suspicion of the Palestinians, and a wish to continue holding on to the territories - they initiate actions designed to obstruct the peace process. They simply do not understand that most international conflicts are now solvable.

They also insist that in the event that a Palestinian state is created, terrorism will further increase. According to their morose forecast, such a state will join all the dark forces in the Middle East that promote international terrorism.

Since even these politicians cannot totally disregard the meaningful changes occurring in the occupied territories, the Middle East, and the world as a whole, they have muted other strategic arguments.

Constantly repeating the threats posed by terrorism and turning them into a challenge to the very existence of the State of Israel has become the main weapon in their arsenal. For without admitting it, they know there is no point in warning against comprehensive wars, the number of which has been dramatically reduced.

They are also aware of Israel's military superiority, and of the Arabs' inability to achieve strategic parity with Israel. Hence, their last resort is to rely on Israel's inherent fear of terrorism.

This argument has been pretty effective. It has percolated in various directions and influenced the views of even those Israelis who support a considerable withdrawal from the territories and the establishment of an independent Palestinian entity.

It is thus important to review the most relevant aspects of terrorism in general, and Arab terrorism in particular.

Terror is a weapon used not only by aggressive and extremist political movements, but also by

states. Moreover, not only totalitarian, racist, nationalist, and xenophobic states use it, but also purportedly liberal democratic states and movements, including Jewish ones. These have included the Hagana, Lehi, and the Irgun.

These states and movements use terror against external and internal opponents. Moreover, authoritarian as well as democratic leaders often threaten to use terror, or military actions that

Israel should learn how to live with terror, and continue its efforts to solve the entire conflict

are no different from terror, against real or imagined enemies.

Except in extreme cases in which states and movements are led by evidently crazy politicians, such as Josef Stalin, Adolf Hitler, Idi Amin, or Papa Doc Duvalier, terrorism is essentially a tool designed to facilitate the attainment of political goals. Thus, in most cases, including that of the Palestinians, it is not an end in itself.

Common aims of terrorism are attempts to impose certain processes or arrangements that are unacceptable to the other side, or to torpedo them; attempts to increase the opponents' fear of escalation; to cajole opponents into making concessions; to attract world public opinion; and to impress the undecided both internally and externally. These were the goals of the current wave of terrorism. When political obstacles are removed, attention is attracted, or goals are attained or about to materialize, states and movements refrain from the use of terror.

IN MOST cases terrorism is used when regimes or movements are far from confident, when they lack legitimacy, or fear democratic tendencies. Terror is the weapon of the weak, not of the strong.

For weak regimes and movements, terror becomes an essen-

tial tool, since it is relatively inexpensive, especially when there are so many who are ready to sacrifice their lives and become martyrs. Yet terror can inflict enormous psychological damage, since its resonance is great.

From these points of view, Palestinian terror and the uncontrolled reactions of Jewish settlers that border on terrorism are carried out by weak movements and groups.

Recent terrorist activities in various states, including those with strong governments, such as the US, France, Argentina, Britain, and Israel, underline the difficulties involved in fighting this malaise.

When there are ideological and ethnic groups that are deprived and dissatisfied, when nobody can avoid the migration of undesirable elements, when the terrorists are no less sophisticated than the law enforcement agencies, when all societies are vulnerable, and when there are plenty of suicide bombers, it is almost impossible to prevent most terrorist acts.

The late Moshe Dayan was the first to realize and state publicly that more Israelis die in road accidents than in wars or terrorist attacks. And he added that just as road accidents could not destroy Israel, terrorism would not harm its continued existence, or its ability to achieve its just aims.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin subscribes to this same thesis, even if he states it less bluntly.

Moreover, Rabin and Shimon Peres know that they are conducting the negotiations with the Palestinians from a more powerful position than Israel ever attained before. They understand that Israel's real victory over terrorism is connected to the solution of the "Jewish problem" - relations with the Arabs.

Only a full political solution can resolve the problem of terrorism. In the meantime, Israel should learn how to live with terror, and continue with its efforts to solve the entire conflict. Hysterical reactions, whether from politicians or the man in the street, will only exacerbate the terror itself.

The writer is professor of political science at the Hebrew University.

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Troops battle mercenaries in Comoros islands

MORONI, Comoros (Reuters) - French soldiers of fortune Bob Denard and a band of mercenaries battled government troops in the Comoros islands yesterday after taking President Mohamed Said Djohar hostage in a coup attempt, residents and diplomats said.

Two people were killed and scores wounded in the fighting which broke out before dawn in the Indian Ocean archipelago, they said.

The mercenaries captured the radio station in the capital, Moroni, but were surrounded by troops loyal to the government, they said.

"There is heavy fighting going on at the moment. It seems the president has been captured," said Sultan Chouzour, a former ambassador to France.

"The fighting is at a military camp which is next to the presidential palace," Chouzour said by telephone from the Comoros. "The mercenaries have also taken the radio station."

Witnesses said Djohar was either still in the palace with Denard or had been taken to the nearby Kandani army camp.

Television, radio and air communications have been cut.

Hachim Said, a spokesman for the Comoros in Paris, said Denard "tried to stage a coup with some of his lieutenants and has taken the president hostage".

The government appealed to France, the former colonial power, for help. France condemned the attempted coup and called in a foreign ministry statement for a rapid restoration of order. It made no mention of any intervention.

Denard, 65, is a former head of the Comoros presidential guard and a veteran freelance soldier in wars across Africa.

He was supervising operations and was seen driving around in a military vehicle.

The rebels, who have not named their leader, freed political prisoners including former cabinet ministers, witnesses said.

The two dead were civilians hit by stray bullets when the rebels captured Djohar.

Ministers loyal to the president had taken refuge inside the French Embassy. French military advisers on the island had apparently made no move.

Said said Denard had apparently hoped to trigger a popular uprising which failed to materialize.



A Bosnian Army soldier tries to harness a stray horse and hitch it to a wagon carrying other soldiers. (Reuters)

Croats plan to send back 100,000 refugees to Bosnia

ZAGREB (AP) - Ignoring international condemnation, Croatia said yesterday it was going to send up to 100,000 refugees back to Bosnia, a move it says will keep recently captured territory permanently out of Serb hands.

The United Nations and its refugee agency have strongly criticized the plan, saying it is much too soon to send the mostly ethnic Croat refugees back to the war-torn republic. Officials say the towns still are too close to the front lines, and many lack basic services like water and electricity.

"Croatia will start the repatriation in an organized way and in phases," Adalbert Rebic, head of Croatia's refugee agency, told reporters. "This is a state policy, and as such it is irrevocable."

A US-led peace effort has resulted in several agreements about the future structure of postwar Bosnia, but one of the most difficult issues, division of territory, remains unresolved.

Rebic made no secret of Cro-

atia's goals, suggesting that sending refugees back would strengthen its hand when the final maps are drawn.

"Presence of the people on the ground in Bosnia will assist a political settlement," he said.

The United Nations admits that the resettlement will create firmer land claims for the Moslem-led government and its Croat allies.

US Assistant Secretary of State Richard Holbrooke was to leave Washington yesterday for the Balkans for another round of shuttle diplomacy.

His diplomatic blitz has been accompanied by an offensive of Croat and Bosnian government forces, which have seized large pieces of Serb-held territory in western Bosnia. About 80,000 Serbs have fled.

The planned resettlement will further cement changes in ethnic living patterns in former Yugoslavia, already badly disrupted by four years of war. More than 3

million people have lost their homes.

Croatia, which houses 200,000 Bosnian refugees and some 100,000 Croats from Serb-held eastern Croatia, could no longer pay for the refugees, Rebic said. Not all of them will return to their own homes.

Some will be resettled in deserted Serb homes in Bosnian towns like Drvar, Grabovo and Glamoc, which historically have been predominantly Serb. Rebic said it was better to resettle them than to "let the Serbs houses rot."

UN spokesman Chris Gunness yesterday warned that any forced repatriation of refugees to a war zone violated international rights of the refugees and basic humanitarian principles.

"These people should be sent back only in the context of an overall peace settlement," Gunness said. "If Croatia were to follow through its decision, this would add considerably to a highly unstable situation."

The UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Sadako Ogata, criticized the plan as premature.

Croatia already has stripped the people of their refugee status, but Rebic set no date for their return.

He charged that international aid workers were against the move because they wanted to "preserve the status quo and keep their salaries running."

"Our aim is not to prolong the refugee status, but to return the refugees to their homes, wherever possible," Rebic said. "Houses won't be rebuilt by ghosts or humanitarian agencies, but by the returnees."

Front lines in Bosnia remained largely quiet yesterday, after two government-held towns, Travnik and Konjic, were shelled Tuesday. Two people were killed and 25 wounded in Travnik, about 70 km northwest of Sarajevo, in an attack the government said could jeopardize the peace negotiations.

France tightens net around bomb suspect

LYON (Reuters) - Hundreds of French police, backed by dogs and a helicopter, surrounded a wooded area near the central city of Lyon yesterday in a hunt for a fugitive they believe is linked to a series of bloody bombings.

Police said the fugitive had been identified as Khaled Kelkal, an Algerian-born petty criminal whose fingerprints were found last month on a bomb which failed to explode beside a high-speed rail line north of Lyon.

A force of 760 officers and a squad of paratroopers sealed off a 400-sq-km area around Vaugneray, where the man had escaped after a gunbattle with police.

Police identified their suspect from fingerprints at the scene and from comments made by men arrested in the woods on Wednesday.

All three of the arrested men, like Kelkal, 24, lived in the depressed Lyon suburb of Vaux-en-Velin.

Investigators suspect Moslem fundamentalists are responsible for six bombs planted in Paris and around Lyon since July that have killed seven people and wounded more than 130.

The drama began when police approached two men who had been seen sleeping in the woods.

Asked to produce identity papers, one of the men pulled out a sawn-off shotgun and started shooting. The gendarmes returned fire, seriously wounding him.

The gendarmes then came across a car with three men in it. Two were captured as they tried to flee, but the third - believed to be Kelkal - got away.

A search of the site turned up an alarm clock which could have been used as a timer device for a bomb, a submachinegun, shotguns, 300 cartridges and Moslem extremist "propaganda".

Powell ahead in N. Hampshire

CONCORD (AP) - If the first-in-the-nation New Hampshire presidential primary were today and retired Gen. Colin Powell were running, he would win - but just barely, according to a poll in the *Concord Monitor*.

Powell would get 23 percent of the Republican vote, compared to 22% for Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole, and 12% for conservative political commentator Pat Buchanan, the newspaper said. But the poll margin of error is 5.3%.

Former Tennessee Gov. Lamar Alexander would get 7 percent, Sen. Phil Gramm of Texas 5% and California Gov. Pete Wilson, 3%.

The remaining candidates would get less than 1% of the vote. Of the 633 polled, 27% were undecided.

If Powell were not included in the race, Dole would lead with 32%, Buchanan would have 13%, Alexander 8%, Gramm 6%, Wilson 4%, Sen. Dick Lugar of Indiana 3 percent, Sen. Arlen Specter of Pennsylvania get 2%, and the other candidates would receive less than 1% of the vote. Thirty percent were undecided.

In the general election, Dole would beat President Clinton 49% to 38% in New Hampshire and Powell would beat Clinton 55% to 23%. In a three-way race, Powell would get 36%, Dole 26% and Clinton 23%.

Mason-Dixon Political/Media Research conducted the poll September 19 to 22. Voters were selected at random and surveyed by telephone but weighted to reflect the most populous counties.

Of those surveyed, 41% were Republicans, 31% were Democrats and 28% were independents.

Key facts about Comoros

GEOGRAPHY: The four-island archipelago lies between the southeast African coast and Madagascar in the Indian Ocean. The main island of Grand Comoro was formed by a still-active volcano.

PEOPLE: The 500,000 people are a mix of African, Arab and Malay descent and are overwhelmingly Moslem. The official language is French, but most people speak Comoran, a mixture of Arabic and Swahili.

HISTORY: The French controlled the islands for 130 years before the Comoros declared independence in 1975. One of the four islands, Mayotte, remains a French dependency.

POLITICS: President Ahmed Abdallah Abderrahmane was overthrown in 1975, restored to power in 1978 and weathered several coup attempts before his assassination Nov. 26, 1989. He headed the one legal party that controls the 42-seat assembly. President Said Mohamed Djohar won an election in March 1990. (Agencies)

CHIMES ISRAEL

expresses condolences to
Renee, Susan, David and families
on the untimely passing of our dear
LOUIS GRILLER ז"ל

A true friend, devoted colleague and
strong advocate of the advancement of
the mentally handicapped in Israel.

He will be sadly missed by all the *hanichim* and staff.

We express our deepest sympathy and condolences to

YONA WEISS and family
on the death of her
Mother

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Simpson lawyer attacks Fuhrman in closing argument

LOS ANGELES (AP) - Pounding away at the theme, "If it doesn't fit, you must acquit," O.J. Simpson's lawyer launched an all-out attack on Mark Fuhrman, the detective who found the too-tight bloody glove which prosecutors say links Simpson to the murder of his ex-wife and her friend.

"Mark Fuhrman is a lying, perjuring, genocidal racist," Cochran said in a soaring, sermonlike summation in the Simpson trial. "This man is an unspeakable disgrace. ... He is sinful to the prosecution."

Cochran spared no insult in a closing argument that accused Fuhrman and the Los Angeles Police Department of framing an innocent man in a cruel, self-serving "rush to judgment."

Fuhrman's festering, racist vendetta against Simpson, Cochran contended, began back in 1985, when the detective responded to a domestic violence call between Simpson and then-wife Nicole Brown Simpson. The couple sickened Fuhrman because it was a black man married to a white woman, Cochran said.

"From that moment on, any

time he could get O.J. Simpson, he would do it," said Cochran, who continues today.

The golden opportunity arrived early the morning of June 13, 1994, when Fuhrman was called at home and dispatched to a double-homicide at Ms. Simpson's Brentwood condo, Cochran suggested. At the scene were the slashed bodies of Ms. Simpson and her friend Ronald Goldman.

"He knew what he was going to do on this particular night," Cochran said. And what he was going to do was carry a bloody glove from the crime scene to Simpson's house a few miles away, a house Fuhrman remembered from that 1985 call, he said.

Fuhrman testified he found a glove at Simpson's house that morning, a glove that appeared still sticky with blood.

"Why would it be moist and sticky unless he brought it over there and planted it there to try to make this case?" Cochran asked. "And there is a Caucasian hair on that glove. This man cannot be trusted. He is central to the prosecution and for them to say he's not important is untrue and you will not fall for it."

Socks messages Humphrey

LONDON (Reuters) - Socks, the White House cat, has sent a welcome home message to Humphrey, the cat that went missing from the London home of Prime Minister John Major.

But the prodigal feline's chances of further fame have been thwarted - the British civil service has banned the cat from being used in pet food advertisements.

Reports of Humphrey's death by Major's aides proved greatly exaggerated. The cat was returned home this week after it was discovered living at the Royal Army Medical College one km from Major's Downing Street residence.

The White House sent Humphrey a message via *The Times* newspaper yesterday. "While fears of his possible catnapping troubled me deeply, I never lost faith that he would eventually return home," said Socks, calling himself *The First Cat*.

In pet-loving Britain, Humphrey's return was front-page news. Pet food manufacturers hoped to cash in by using the black and white cat.

But a spokesman for Major's Cabinet Office insisted yesterday: "Humphrey is a civil servant. He is employed by the Cabinet Office as official mouser. As a civil servant, it would be against the terms of his contract to take part in any advertising."

Britain, Sinn Fein resume peace talks

BELFAST (Reuters) - Britain and the IRA's political wing Sinn Fein had an unscheduled meeting yesterday to try to ease the stalemate blocking the Northern Ireland peace process.

Sinn Fein chief strategist Martin McGuinness and Northern Ireland Minister Michael Ancram had their first face-to-face encounter since a meeting four weeks ago hardened deadlock over British demands for IRA arms.

Sinn Fein said it had asked for the meeting, which was held at an undisclosed location.

"Its purpose was to overcome the impasse in the peace process by moving forward to all party talks," Sinn Fein said in a statement.

The Northern Ireland Office said they had discussed the current political situation and agreed that they would be ready to have further meetings.

Britain insists that the Irish Republican Army and its pro-British foes in guerrilla groups hand in arms as a condition to participate in full peace talks.

The IRA, which waged a 25-year war against British rule in the province and the Protestant extremists have refused.

Sinn Fein said Britain never made the demand before the IRA ceasefire a year ago and it warned that London risks a crisis in the peace process by insisting on it.

Britain remains adamant that a handover of some weapons was always part of the deal but denies aiming to humiliate the IRA.

The Irish government, Britain's partner in devising peace strategies in the province, said the guns are silent and there must be urgent progress in the peace talks.

Deputy Prime Minister Dick Spring criticized Britain's stance in a speech to the United Nations general assembly in New York. He said Ireland wanted all arms erased from the political equation as soon as possible.

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Control of holy sites in the territories is still unclear

CONTROL of the Jewish religious sites in Judea and Samaria is one of the sensitive issues set aside until almost the last minute of the Oslo negotiations.

On Friday, only two days before the Oslo 2 accords were signed in Taba, MK Avraham Ravitz (United Torah Judaism) spoke by phone with Prime Minister Rabin about this issue.

Ravitz, along with MK Yigal Bibi (NRP) and MK Shlomo Benizri (Shas), was one of a committee formed to advise the negotiators in Taba on the religious sites. As it happened, Bibi said, the committee made recommendations, but had no real say.

Of his conversation with Rabin, Ravitz said: "I suggested leasing Rachel's Tomb in Bethlehem for 999 years."

"But Rabin objected, saying that doing this would be to support the Palestinian claim to the area, something he did not want to do."

Instead, the matter of Rachel's Tomb is dealt with in a couple of paragraphs in the agreement.

They stipulate that the tomb, and the main road leading to and from Jerusalem, will be under Israeli control during the interim agreement and that three Israeli guard posts may be located there.

Speculation that a new road from Gilo to the tomb would be built to skirt Bethlehem turned out to be unfounded.

Answers to other questions, Ravitz said, are not spelled out. "Issues like who is in charge of electricity, water and maintenance are not addressed," Ravitz said. "It was more comfortable for the government to leave these issues up in the air. But if we want to put in an air conditioner, and the Palestinians object, it could make life difficult. It is these matters that, if not spelled out, can cause problems."

Ravitz said that generally the arrangements at the Jewish holy sites are "left up in the air." The premise, he said, is that a modus operandi will work itself out.

"But what happens if something goes wrong?" he asked.

Religious Affairs Minister Shimon Shetret - who, with Energy Minister Gonen Segev abstained on the agreement - said he felt Israel could have received more regarding these sites.

The agreement divides the nearly 20 Jewish religious sites in the territories into two categories. There are the "big three" - the Machpela Cave in Hebron housing the Tomb of the Patriarchs and Matriarchs, Rachel's Tomb in Bethlehem, and Joseph's Tomb in Nablus.

And then there are the less significant sites, such as Joshua's Tomb in Kifel-Hares, Elazar's Tomb in Awarta, and Elisha and Obadiah's tombs in Sebastia, places most Jews have probably never heard of, let alone visited.

According to MK Avraham Ravitz, arrangements at the Jewish holy sites are generally 'left up in the air,' Herb Keinon reports

Regarding the Machpela Cave, the agreement reads: "Since the two sides are unable to reach agreement regarding the Tomb of the Patriarchs/Al Haram al Ibrahim, they have agreed to keep the present situation as is. Three months after the redeployment, the high-level Joint Liaison Committee will review the situation."

The present situation is that Jews pray in half of the cave, and Moslems in the other half.

Religious Affairs Ministry spokesman Ofer Amar said that, beyond retaining the status quo at the site, the agreement also allows for unarmed Palestinian guards in the Moslem section

during Moslem prayer times. Settler leaders say this is a breach of the status quo and constitutes symbolic recognition of Palestinian claims to the site.

"It is an issue of principle," said Noam Arnon, head of the Jewish settlement in Hebron.

"It is unheard of that a nation will transfer its central historic sites to another sovereignty."

Arnon, who has long tried to get more Jews to visit the cave, said by agreeing to Palestinian guards, the government is recognizing Palestinian claims to the site.

"It gives them a foothold, even a symbolic one," he said. "During this stage the guards are un-

armed. By the next stage they will be armed."

Regarding the situation in Joseph's Tomb in Nablus, which also houses a small yeshiva, the agreement stipulates that Israel will control the actual tomb, and that there will be joint Israeli-Palestinian patrols on the roads leading up to it.

Rabbi David Dudkevitch, one of the heads of the yeshiva there, said that he and the yeshiva view the agreement as "null and void." They will continue to go to the tomb and the site as they have done in the past.

Beyond the "big three," details about the arrangements at the other religious sites are limit-

ed. Senior officials in the Religious Affairs Ministry and the Civil Administration were hard pressed to describe what exactly the new arrangements would look like at these locations.

"Responsibility over sites of religious significance in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip will be transferred to the Palestinian side," the text of the agreement reads.

The agreement stipulates that, in Area A, which is made up of the six major cities from which the IDF will withdraw, "While protection of these [holy] sites, as well as persons visiting them, will be under the responsibility of the Palestinian police, a joint mobile unit shall function in the vicinity of, and on access routes to, each site...."

The agreement also states both sides will respect and protect the religious rights of Jews, Christians, Moslems and Samaritans, including "protection of the holy sites, free access to them, and

freedom of worship and practice."

But skeptics abound, at least among the Jews. Arnon said that, since in the past Moslems did not allow Jews to pray at Machpela Cave, there is no reason to assume they would do so now.

And Mordechai Rabinovitch, former dean of the yeshiva in the Shalom Al Yisrael Synagogue in Jericho, said that even though there haven't been attacks on the synagogue or the students and worshippers there, the situation there cannot be described as freedom of worship.

"By a direct order from the army, and because of security concerns, we are not allowed access after dark for [the] express reason that it would be too dangerous," Rabinovitch said. "Also, whenever the situation on the road through Jericho becomes tense, the whole area is closed off to Jews."

That, he said, does not constitute free and open access.

Turkey faces West towards the future

Turkey's political and social climate are undergoing change, as are its relations with Israel. Barry Rubin reports

ALTHOUGH they do not share a border, Turkey and Israel are two of the best neighbors in the Middle East. Prime Minister Tansu Ciller's resignation, the reorganization of her cabinet, and the run-up to Turkey's elections all call attention to that country's importance in the region.

Evidence of the warm relations between Israel and Turkey include the raising of diplomatic representation to ambassadorial level, unprecedented high-level mutual visits by leaders, Turkey's popularity as a holiday destination for Israelis, and Israel's winning of major contracts to modernize Turkey's air force.

Turkey's rapid economic development is extremely impressive, as is the fact that its population now surpasses 60 million. Less appreciated, however, is the fact that Turkey is undergoing a serious reevaluation of its identity, national strategy and foreign policy.

For 70 years, Turkey has been a secular state, oriented towards Europe. It allied itself with Western goals to contain Soviet expansionism.

In October, the European Community is due to vote on a customs union which will bring Ankara to an unprecedented level of economic integration with Europe. This step, and the efforts by some in Europe to block it, is having an enormous impact.

Along with some socialists, the main opponent of European integration is the Islamic Welfare party. In the last elections it won the mayoralties of Istanbul, Ankara, and most other major cities. There are strongholds of fundamentalism in eastern Anatolia - the country's least-developed region - as well as among the millions of recent urban migrants from the villages.

The next election will determine whether the Welfare party can continue to grow and become a key element in government coalitions.

The Islamic forces have little chance of taking over the country, but one policy they would energetically promote if they did would be a cooling in relations with Israel.

One of the Welfare party's least popular aims is its effort to have Turkey join, or even lead, the Islamic world. The recent beatings of Turkish truck drivers in Saudi Arabia, on charges of smuggling aphrodisiac drugs, provoked tremendous outrage. Despite the appearance on campuses of women in "Islamic" dress and some extremist violence, Turkey remains overwhelmingly secular. Indeed, this aspect of Turkish society provides one of the most fascinating areas of contrast and comparison with Israel. The Turks have erected a wall between religion and the state in an effort to mod-

ernize. Marriage and divorce are civil functions in Turkey, and Turks are surprised to find that matters of personal status are subject to religious authority in Israel.

Turkey sees Israel as a strong and reliable ally. The two states have common interests in containing the ambitions of nearby Iran, Iraq and Syria. They both want to see regional stability and have a stake in preventing radical Islamic revolutions and terrorism in the area.

The problem for the Turkish government is how to be openly friendly with Israel without provoking additional problems from Arab states. For Turkey, Iran is a distasteful subversive force, but also a neighbor with which they want to avoid unnecessary tensions.

Iraq is a potential threat - Saddam Hussein would like to take revenge for Ankara's active stance against him during the Gulf War - but also a trading partner with enormous potential. Long lines of Turkish trucks wait at the border to pick up oil in violation of the international embargo, but Turkey has lost billions of dollars due to the closure of the Iraqi pipeline through its territory.

Syria, which supports Kurdish and other terrorist groups against Turkey, is the No. 1 problem. Turks are very much aware of Syrian territorial claims against them. Turkey's massive development in its southeast region requires the use of water that Syria as well as Iraq - also wants. Some Turks even worry that an Israel-Syria peace settlement might make Damascus a greater threat to them.

The Syrian-backed Kurdish nationalist insurgency in southeast Turkey, along with a high rate of inflation, are Turkey's two biggest problems. Thousands of people have been killed in what amounts to a full-scale war.

Kurds and Turks are, in large part, culturally mingled and even intermarried. The Turkish political leadership, of all parties, is strongly opposed to substantive concessions and determined to fight until military victory has been achieved.

The presence of what amounts to a Kurdish autonomous state in northern Iraq poses a quandary. So far, the Turks have worked with the Iraqi Kurds - dependent on US political support but also on receiving supplies through Turkey - to reduce the cross-border attacks and even to allow Turkish military incursions. There are those in Turkey who believe the situation might be improved if Saddam Hussein were allowed to crush the Kurds.

Barry Rubin is a Senior Fellow at Bar-Ilan University's BESA Center. His latest books are *Assimilation and Its Discontents* and *Revolution Until Victory: The Politics and History of the PLO*.

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A Rosh Hashana sermon with plenty political hints

GRAPEVINE

GREER FAY CASHMAN

REPHRASING the Biblical text. If he were the prophet Jeremiah, Ashkenazi Chief Rabbi Yisrael Meir Lau told congregants at Jerusalem's Yeshurun Synagogue, he would say to Rachel the matriarch: "Do not refrain your voice from weeping. Do not refrain your eyes from tears until the last of your children returns to your borders."

While Lau did not specifically refer to Oslo 2 or the Taba accord in his second day of Rosh Hashana sermon, there were sufficient hints throughout to leave little doubt as to the real subject of his sermon.

AMONG THE worshippers who heard Lau speak at Yeshurun was Jerusalem mayor Ehud Olmert, resplendent in a full-length tallit, such as those favored in Orthodox circles. Congregants who came to shake his hand and wish him a happy new year also took the opportunity to air a few personal gripes. This was one time when Olmert could not resort to more pressing engagements in order to make a quick getaway.

IN HIS Rosh Hashana message to the nation, President Ezer Weizman admitted that his generation had never dreamed that Israel would ever be blessed with so many Jews. Israel, with the second largest Jewish population in the world, now trails only slightly behind the US, and could conceivably move into first place by the end of the century.

IN GIVING credit where it was due to those directly and indirectly involved in the Taba negotiations, Foreign Minister Shimon Peres lauded Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin over and above anyone else, stressing his close cooperation and his commitment

to the cause. Yet another example of yesterday's enemies becoming today's allies. Peres also brought smiles to the faces of the weary negotiators when, in mentioning team member Ilan Biran, he noted that he had started out as a general and finished up as a diplomat. As for Biran's predecessor Uri Dayan, Peres praised him for doing his job so well, that Arafat had actually addressed him by his first name.

ISRAEL RADIO's parliamentary reporter Haim Hecht, who also hosts a weekly news magazine, conducted his own informal poll for Man of the Year, and did not draw the same conclusions as either of the two competing local television channels. Instead of Yitzhak Rabin or Likud chairman Binyamin Netanyahu, Hecht chose terrorist Yitzhak Ayyash who is suspected of masterminding the series of suicide bombings which rocked Israel during the past year. Israel Radio general manager Amnon Nadav put his foot down, saying that it was inconceivable that a terrorist should be chosen as Man of the Year. But Hecht, claiming that Ayyash symbolizes terror, and that terror more than anything else influenced the national morale, stood his ground. The upshot was that Hecht broadcast the dispute as a news story, thereby circumventing Nadav without actually being insubordinate.

FOLLOWING THE controversy over whether it should be allowed to remain on air, Arutz 7, generally known as the settlers' radio station, is expanding its operations to include an extraterritorial, privately funded television station. Heading up the team for the new venture is Adir Zyl, who currently broadcasts on Arutz 7 and who was previously a long-



Eilat Negev (left) celebrates the launching of her new book, 'Intimate Conversations.' With her is Leah Eini.

time producer, director and occasional talk-show host on ITV.

WIND instrumentalist David Perkins announced his arrival at the Rosh Hashana luncheon hosted by Hila Solomon, by sounding a protracted shofar blast which set off the alarms of nearby cars, and put the dogs and cats in the area in a frenzy. Perkins, who carries his long and beautifully curved shofar around with him, delighted fellow guests with an impromptu rendition of ram's horn blues, and even allowed eager would-be musicians to blow their own thing providing they first rinsed their mouths with alcohol and washed their lips with water.

A MUSEUM curator by profession, Solomon has just become the spokesperson for the Jerusalem branch of the Third Way. The person who succeeded in luring her away from ancient history to history in the making is her former landlord Mordechai Gafni, who with Emmanuel Zis-

man is the Third Way's Jerusalem co-chairman. Zissman is also chairman of the Jerusalem branch of the Labor party, a position which, rumor has it, he will soon relinquish.

As for Solomon, if she discovers that politics are not her forte, she can always open a restaurant. A gourmet cook who specializes in strictly kosher French cuisine, Solomon received the supreme compliment from two of her guests who independently of each other said, "this is so good, it tastes treife."

BRITISH LABOUR parliamentarian Greville Janner and his wife Myra, in Jerusalem for the High Holy Days, spent very little time socializing with political colleagues. Preferring to put aside his political cap in favor of that of grandfather, Janner devoted most of his energies to his Israeli grandchildren Tali and Natan.

However he did accept a dinner invitation issued by Religious Affairs Minister Shimon She-
treet, to dine at Rungit, the capi-



Peres: Ilan Biran started out a general and finished up a diplomat. (A. Jeruzolimski)

tal's new Japanese/Thai restaurant. To anyone who finds fault with Rabin's backtracking on pre-election promises, Janner quotes an important word from the international political lexicon - "reassessment." Apparently it's an excuse for anything and everything.

CHIVALRY CAN sometimes exact a costly price. Moti Reif, the country's leading producer/director of fashion shows, was in London to buy some accoutrements for a prestige project.

Walking down a busy street, he saw out of the corner of his eye that a woman was about to be run down by an oncoming vehicle. Sprinting to the rescue, Reif was able to deflect the impact of the crash, but not to avoid it entirely. What could have been a fatality resulted in a serious injury, and Reif himself was sufficiently hurt to be temporarily confined to a wheelchair. But that didn't stop him from going on with the show.

IN TERMS of ratings, those of Akid Avni have dropped by at least one point since the efferves-



Nadav was outraged at the thought of a terrorist as Man of the Year. (H. Guttman)

cent, hyper-energetic entertainer let it be known that he does nothing for charity, and works only if he gets paid. Avni was approached by Event committee member Mel Salomon to donate some of his time to the Anti-Drug Bus to help in the war against drugs and to contribute to aliya by meeting some prospective immigrants.

Unlike his television image, Avni was reportedly anything but Mr. Nice Guy.

Exploding at Solomon, he said "Do you know what cheek you have? How dare you even ask me to do such a thing? This is my work and I only appear for money! I don't need your exposure. Why should I donate my time to a bunch of English-speaking kids?" Solomon was flabbergasted.

Although most entertainers oblige, it's not unknown for them to refuse; but to do so with such vehemence was to Solomon an astounding phenomenon. He for one, will not contribute to Avni's ratings in the future, and he's advising other native English-speakers to follow suit.

THE JOYS of the melting pot.

By Tuesday night, most people were so bloated with meals consumed throughout Rosh Hashana that food was the last thing they wanted to think about. But in the case of proud grandparents Helen and Benny Mirzachi the cooking started all over again. The couple hosted a cross-cultural *pidyon haben* (redemption of the firstborn son) for their month-old grandson Kfir, who on his paternal grandparents' side is of Australian/Polish and Israeli/Kurdish stock; and of Yemenite background on his maternal grandparents' side.

Kfir's parents Hagai and Ravi were very happy to hand him around to admiring relatives and friends while they lent their voices to an enthusiastic group of singers who merrily went through a wide-ranging east-west repertoire which included popular North African and Hassidic tunes as well as a large selection from Shlomo Carlebach. The buffet was also an east-west mix.

THE ONLY benefit in making an embarrassing mistake is that it generates much more feedback than when one does something right. Thus the inadvertent use in last week's *Grapevine* of the word "late" in reference to Yohanan Meres, Israel's former ambassador to Germany, stirred up a hornet's nest.

Happily, he is alive and well, and is likely to remain so for a long time, as Jewish tradition has it that anyone misreported as being deceased is given an extra lease on life.

ISRAEL'S LITERATI turned out in full force for the launching at Beit Reuven in Tel Aviv of Eilat Negev's new book *Intimate Conversations*. Several of the subjects of those "conversations" were present, among them Yitzhak Laor, Orly Castel-Bloom, Leah Eini and Rivka Keren.

Negev, a feature writer with *Yedioth Aharonot*, specializes in in-depth, one-on-one interviews.

'Eco-tourists' are far from deterred by croc attacks and killer jellyfish

THE pioneering spirit is alive and well in Australia with a growing number of people seeking out wild and remote places to spend their holidays.

But adventure is not all that thrives in this unforgiving continent. Many of the world's deadliest animals slither and crawl across Australia, or swim off its sandy shores.

The country is home to the world's most poisonous snake and spider, and its waters hide giant saltwater crocodiles and sharks, and a jellyfish that can kill within minutes.

But far from deterring visitors, these species are drawing a crowd under the banner of "eco-tourism."

"It's one of the fastest growing [tourism] industries," said Australian Tourist Commission

spokesman David McInne, noting that eco-tourism was growing at up to 30 percent each year, much faster than overall tourism growth of about 10 percent.

This is despite an environment that boasts the world's top six poisonous snakes, including the deadliest of all, the inland taipan, which is 50 times more venomous than the cobra and almost 800 times more venomous than the North American rattlesnake.

In northern Australia, giant saltwater crocodiles, which grow up to six meters, have eaten 14 people, mostly locals, since the early 1970s. But they are nevertheless now a major attraction for tourists.

One of the few times a crocodile did attack a tourist - a young woman fashion model from the United States was killed in the mid-1980s at a river in Western

Australia - tourism actually rose, recalled crocodile expert Charlie Manolis.

"That inspired a big boost in tourism from America," said Manolis, who co-manages a crocodile museum for visitors near Darwin in the Northern Territory.

One of the most fondly remembered of Australia's dangerous animals is a five-meter crocodile named Sweetheart, which made a habit of biting the outboard motors of small boats on a river near the coastal city of Darwin.

"He would hit the boat and the people would all fall out, but he would leave them alone," Manolis said.

Sweetheart drowned while being captured in 1979. His stuffed hide is a permanent tourist attraction at the Northern Territory museum.

Conservation authorities still lament cases of ignorance and sheer lunacy - some Northern Territory anglers are said to wade routinely into the crocodile-infested Mary River - but say general awareness of Australia's dangerous wildlife is high.

"Nature makes no apologies and people need to learn about that," said snake expert Richard Longmore, of the Australian Nature Conservation Agency, after a Sydney man accidentally stepped on a tiger snake on a recent visit to the countryside.

The man was bitten five times and died in hospital a few hours later despite treatment with antivenom.

Longmore said he encouraged visitors to use Australia's forest trails, but urged visitors to wear thick boots and socks to protect against snake bites.

"We have the top half-dozen most venomous snakes in the world," he said. "We get five deaths a year, which is fairly small considering the number of snakes we have."

Protective measures also need to be taken in the shallows off Australia's tropical beaches where the world's most poisonous jellyfish, known as the box jelly, is a regular summer visitor.

It has killed 63 people over the last century and inflicts about 12 serious stings each year.

The Queensland Surf Lifesaving Association, which patrols beaches along northeastern Australia, requires its lifeguards to

use nets to clear jellyfish from popular swimming areas and to wear full-length anti-sting swim suits.

The suits leave only the face, hands and feet exposed, and can now be bought at diving shops in north Queensland.

"People must swim on a patrolled beach. If they cannot, they should go into the water with a full suit on," said jellyfish expert Peter Fenner, who noted the box jelly was invisible in water and its venom could kill within three minutes.

Shark attacks are rare in Australian waters but the Great White shark, made famous by the

hit Hollywood movie *Jaws*, is a regular visitor to waters off South Australia and recently led to the bluntest warning so far.

"Only the idiots go swimming now," said police at the south Australian town of Port Victoria, where the same 5.5-meter Great White shark has been returning to frighten swimmers and boat owners every summer for several years.

Police once tried to catch the shark with meat attached by heavy lines to floating oil drums, but this only seemed to anger the shark.

"It bit a boat," said police sergeant Peter Downes. (Reuters)

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BUSINESS & FINANCE

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 1995

ECI to supply China with system

SHARES in ECI Telecom surged in late morning New York trading, after the company announced it will supply a complete new customs and foreign trade system to the Chinese government.

The announcement was made jointly by ECI and Ji Tong Communications of China, a state-owned corporation.

ECI will provide and install a

national high performance network and will provide data communications to thousands of local area networks.

Equipment will be manufactured in part by Telematics International, a wholly-owned ECI subsidiary.

The project, known as Golden Customs, is one of three major

national technology initiatives commissioned by the Chinese Ministry of Electronics Industry and could be worth up to \$60 million to ECI.

Ji Tong has been awarded contracts to supply the three "Golden" high technology projects that will make up China's information superhighway.

The cooperation agreement precedes the eventual signing of formal supply contracts.

The transaction will include long-term financing to be made available by the Israeli government.

"This agreement opens the door to many new major initiatives in the huge emerging Chinese market," said ECI president and CEO David Rubner.

New trade accord signed with EU

Pact replaces 1975 agreement

JOSE ROSENFELD

It will also open EU government procurement in general, and telecommunications in particular to Israeli firms.

The agreement will lower agricultural tariffs between the two countries such that 90 percent of agricultural goods will be exempted from tariffs, compared with only 70% currently.

The new economic agreement with the EU is part of a wider European plan to create a free trade zone that will encompass the Middle East, North Africa,

East and West Europe by 2010.

The Euro-Mediterranean partnership, aims to integrate the economies and promote political stability among the nations of the region.

The plan envisions a network of bilateral agreements that will be concluded among 30 to 40 countries, including eastern Europe and includes an economic development assistance package of 4.7 billion ECU (\$6.27b.) to the Mediterranean region.

The pact must now be ratified by the parliaments of EU member countries before becoming effective.

ISRAEL and the European Union (EU) yesterday initiated a new trade pact which is expected to open the way to greater economic integration as both will lower trade barriers, and expand cooperation in joint research and development.

The new association agreement which will replace the cooperation agreement of 1975, was initiated in Brussels by Israeli Ambassador to the EU Mordechai Drori and European Commission Mediterranean, Near & Middle East department head Eberhard Rhein.

The pact will give Israel non-voting membership in the EU's research and development organization, enabling the country to participate in EU-wide research and development projects.

Supplementary Hassneh deal approved

RACHEL NEIMAN

original plan have not yet been completed, but the discovery of additional resources have allowed for increases in the payment. The supplementary plan does not change the classifications stipulated in the original plan, nor its basic principles, but does increase the sums due to the claimants.

According to the supplementary plan, small insurance holders will receive 100 percent of their

claim, as compared to the 90% stipulated in the original plan. Large insurance holders were originally allowed to choose between two options: either 50% of their due according to Hassneh's books or up to 40% of the sum they claimed.

Instead, they will receive 100% according to the first category or up to 60% of the second.

Pensioners will receive a one-time payment equal to the sum paid out to them according to the original plan.

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ISRAEL LANDS ADMINISTRATION

To receive recorded information by phone or fax:

- 1) Telex: 03-6388883 (Information on building tenders)
- 2) Telex: 03-6388363 (Information on results of tenders)

Israel Lands Administration
Southern Region

Ministry of Housing and Construction
Southern Region

Lease Offered on Plots for Construction of 236 Housing Units in the Neve Ze'ev Quarter, Beersheba
Tender No. 148/95/Bet Shin

The Ministry of Housing and Construction and the Israel Lands Administration hereby invite bids from those interested in signing development contracts for a period of 28 months and contracts for building and completion of development, after which the party concerned will sign a 49 year lease, for the areas whose details and construction possibilities are given below:

Plots	Approx. Area in sq.m.	No. of Housing Units	Maximum area for reg. (sq.m.)	General dev. costs (NIS)	Deposit NIS
4066	3,811	24	2,880	619,786	100,000
4067	3,943	24	2,880	633,886	100,000
4068	5,597	32	3,840	875,243	150,000
4070	5,209	32	3,840	836,491	150,000
4071	2,358	16	1,920	395,897	75,000
4074	10,577	108	11,880	1,726,798	500,000

Building rights are in accordance with urban building plan 153/bet mem/5. The areas of the lots have been calculated analytically and are not final. They may be subject to change after the marking of the boundaries. The building rights detailed in the table include both primary areas and service areas.

In addition to the amount bid for the land, the successful bidder will pay directly to the ministry the costs for development carried out by the ministry, as specified in the above table, within 20 days of the decision by the Central Bids Commission. The above payment is only for the work performed by the ministry.

Development costs will be linked to the building index for July 1995, updated to the last known index figure, at the time of payment.

The successful bidder will not add VAT to the above sum, and will therefore not receive a VAT receipt from the ministry, and will not be entitled to a deduction of that sum from the VAT authorities. The following are eligible to submit bids:

1. A corporation or individual registered in the Registry of Contractors under Building, Main Branch (100), in accordance with the Law for the Registration of Contractors for Civil Engineering Construction Work, 1989.
2. A corporation or individual not registered in the Registry of Contractors, who acts as an entrepreneur for the sale or lease of buildings constructed by properly registered contractors, all as specified in the documents contained in the tender booklet, following June 1, 1991.

A contractor/entrepreneur who can provide confirmation of having engaged in construction work completed after June 1, 1991, inter alia, by the following documents:

- a building permit and Form 4 in the name of the bidder
- a building contract between the bidder and another party, demonstrating that the building work was executed by him, together with a building permit and Form 4 in the name of the other party.
- a building contract between the bidder and the Ministry of Housing and Construction.

The tender booklet will be available from November 8, 1995 upon presentation of a receipt from the Postal Bank for NIS 500 (cash only, including VAT) paid to the Israel Lands Administration, Account No. 0-24180-0, per booklet, from the office of the Israel Lands Administration, Southern Region, Rehov Ben-Zvi (above the Yehalom Hall), Beersheba, Tel. 07-294777, during regular working hours.

A bank check or bank guarantee equivalent to the highest sum of deposit for the area for which the bid is presented should be attached to the bid as a deposit.

The final date for submitting bids: December 20, 1995 (12 noon). Any bid that does not arrive at the bids box at the above-given address by said date, for any reason, will not be considered. The Ministry of Housing and Construction and the Israel Lands Administration reserve to themselves the right to accept or to reject any bid, including the highest.

A tour of companies will take place at 11 a.m. on November 30, 1995, meeting at the Negev Center of the Ministry of Housing and Construction.

This announcement is for general information alone, and does not obligate the Israel Lands Administration or the Ministry of Housing and Construction in any form whatsoever, regarding either its contents or the times mentioned therein. The binding conditions are those which appear in the tender booklet with all of its supplements.

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Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	1.375	1.375	1.500
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French franc	4.0551	4.2709	4.34
Japanese yen (100)	0.0267	0.0185	0.03
Dutch guilder	2.8761	3.0242	3.07
Swiss franc	1.3695	1.3690	1.38
Spanish peseta	2.2923	2.4321	2.57
Scandinavian krona	0.4229	0.4305	0.44
Norwegian krona	0.4752	0.4829	0.48
Denish krona	0.5338	0.5478	0.56
Finnish mark	0.8911	0.7023	0.67
Canadian dollar	2.1983	2.2218	2.27
Australian dollar	2.2263	2.2717	2.31
S. African rand	0.6151	0.6258	0.63
Belgian franc (10)	1.0175	1.0340	1.05
Austrian schilling (10)	2.6726	3.0236	3.07
Italian lire (1000)	1.8445	1.8795	1.91
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REHAVIA-MEGIDDO TOWERS: 4, Shabbat elevator, view, mchasan, secured parking, priced to sell. Exclusive, Gerry Farfas Realty, 02-9933247, 050-304759, NS.

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OLD YISHUV COURT MUSEUM: Life in the Jewish Community in the Old City, mid-19th century - World War II. 6 Or Haraim, Jewish Quarter, Old City, Sun-Thur. 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

TEL AVIV
Museums

TEL AVIV MUSEUM OF ART: Impressionist and Post-Impressionist Art in the courtyard, Yassov Dornich - Blockad Well, 29 monumental sculptures, David Ophir, Cyclopaean Wall, Shai Barlan, Works 1969-79. The Museum Collections, Hours: Weekdays 10:00 a.m.-6 p.m., Tue.-10 a.m.-10 p.m., Fri., Sat., 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Art Education Center, closed for renovations, Tel. 6519152/77.

WZOO: To visit our projects call Tel Aviv 6523818; Jerusalem 256080; Haifa 369617.

HAIFA

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HEBREW UNIVERSITY: Tours of the

RELIGIOUS SERVICES

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JERUSALEM
Shabbat

Jerusalem: Conservative 4 Amon, Dr. Avraham Feder, Rabbi, 41, Minna 5:10, Sat. Shabbat 5:30, Minna 4:40, YOM KIPPUR, Tue., Kol Nidre 5:00 p.m., Wed., Shabbat 8:30 a.m., Yizkor 11:00 a.m., Minna 3:25 p.m., Neta 4:25 p.m., Break-fast 6:00 p.m.

Tel Aviv: Conservative 4 Amon, Dr. Avraham Feder, Rabbi, 41, Minna 5:10, Sat. Shabbat 5:30, Minna 4:40, YOM KIPPUR, Tue., Kol Nidre 5:00 p.m., Wed., Shabbat 8:30 a.m., Yizkor 11:00 a.m., Minna 3:25 p.m., Neta 4:25 p.m., Break-fast 6:00 p.m.

Haifa: Conservative 4 Amon, Dr. Avraham Feder, Rabbi, 41, Minna 5:10, Sat. Shabbat 5:30, Minna 4:40, YOM KIPPUR, Tue., Kol Nidre 5:00 p.m., Wed., Shabbat 8:30 a.m., Yizkor 11:00 a.m., Minna 3:25 p.m., Neta 4:25 p.m., Break-fast 6:00 p.m.

Be'er Sheva: Conservative 4 Amon, Dr. Avraham Feder, Rabbi, 41, Minna 5:10, Sat. Shabbat 5:30, Minna 4:40, YOM KIPPUR, Tue., Kol Nidre 5:00 p.m., Wed., Shabbat 8:30 a.m., Yizkor 11:00 a.m., Minna 3:25 p.m., Neta 4:25 p.m., Break-fast 6:00 p.m.

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Torn portico: Yizkor

CHRISTIAN

JERUSALEM
Reformed Church, Lutheran, Mar-tan Rd. Old City, Jerusalem. Sunday service: English 8:30 a.m., German 10:30 a.m. Tel. 276111, 281048.

ST. PAUL'S (Pentecostal): 32 Shihul Yisrael, Sunday, 8 p.m. Tel. 02-717988.

KING OF KINGS ASSEMBLY, YMCA: Au-thentic, King David St. Tel. 010077, Sunday, 8 p.m.

HAIFA

BEIT ELIAHU (Evangelical Protestant Congregation): Haifa, 43 Meir Street, Tel. 04-625581, Sat. service 11 a.m.

OTHER CENTERS
BAPTIST VILLAGE CONGREGATION: 3 km. north of Patah Tikva, near Yarkon Junction. Sabbath Bible study Saturday 9:45 a.m. Worship hour, 10:45 a.m. Tel. 09-574861.

GENERAL ASSISTANCE

EMERGENCY PHARMACIES
Friday, September 29

Jerusalem: Kupat Holim Clinic, Strass A. 3, Avigdor, 709580, Salah E-Din, 272315; Shufat, Shufat Road, 810108; Dar Alawa, Herod's Gate, 282058.

Tel Aviv: Barak, 109 Jodabinsky cr. Res. 024-6882; Lev Har, 58 Alon Harim, 580-3882.

Be'er Sheva: Kfar Sava: Hyper Pharm Hagal Hayarak, 8 Hanezhu, Be'er Sheva, 863537.

Netanya: Kupat Holim Clinic, 27 Shufat, Shufat Road, 810108; Dar Alawa, Herod's Gate, 282058.

Kiryat Gat: Hyper Pharm Hagal Hayarak, 8 Hanezhu, Be'er Sheva, 863537.

Haifa: Harita, 22 Harita, 231805.

Herzliya: Clal Pharm, Beit Merikzin, 6 Meir, 558472, 558407. Open 9 a.m. to midnight.

Upper Nazareth: Clal Pharm, Lev Har, 570468. Open 11 a.m. to 11 p.m.

DUTY HOSPITALS

Jerusalem: Hadassah Ein Kerem (Internal, pediatrics, ophthalmology); Sheara Zedek (emergency); Hadassah Mt. Scopus (orthopedics); Bikur Holim (obstetrics, ENT).

Tel Aviv: Tel Aviv Medical Center (pediatrics, internal), Ichiv (surgery), Netanya: Laniado.

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The cinema is completely renovated. One show everyday at 19:30. Advance sale begins 9.10.95. Book early, limited seats.

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SALES

REHOVOT, FOR RELIGIOUS, 4

Angels beat M's, keep pace with Yanks

SEATTLE (AP) — Chuck Finley allowed only three hits in 6½ innings and the California Angels kept the AL West race close Wednesday night with a 2-0 victory over the Seattle Mariners before a crowd of 50,212.

Trying desperately to regain their momentum with time running out, the Angels cut Seattle's lead in the division to two games with four to go. The Angels stayed 1½ games behind the New York Yankees in the wild-card race.

A victory by Seattle would have clinched a tie for the division title, but instead the Mariners had their seven-game overall and nine-game home winning streaks snapped.

Finley (14-12), pitching on three days' rest because Mark Langston has bicep tendinitis in his left arm, ended a personal four-game losing streak.

The Angels scored both of their runs in the opening inning against Tim Lincecum (10-11).

Yankees 6, Brewers 3
David Cone, working on three days' rest for the first time in four years, pitched eight strong innings to keep visiting New York 1½ games up in the wild-card race.

Cone (18-8) improved to 9-2 in 13 starts since the Yankees got him from Toronto on July 28. He allowed one run and six hits, walked three and struck out five.

Left fielder David Hulse's three-run error in the sixth gave the Yankees a 4-0 lead. Randy Velarde hit a two-run homer in the eighth.

WEDNESDAY'S AL RESULTS:
New York 6, Milwaukee 3
Detroit 7, Boston 5
Baltimore 7, Toronto 0
Texas 11, Oakland 2
California 6, Kansas City 6
Cleveland 9, Minnesota 6

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division	W	L	Pct.	GB
Boston	63	57	.523	—
New York	76	51	.598	7.5
Baltimore	68	73	.482	15.5
Detroit	60	81	.426	23.5
Toronto	55	86	.387	27.5

Central Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Cleveland	96	44	.686	—
Kansas City	88	71	.553	27
Chicago	88	74	.541	30
Milwaukee	84	76	.522	32
Minnesota	82	85	.491	35

West Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Seattle	76	64	.543	—
California	74	66	.528	2
Texas	72	68	.514	4
Oakland	57	73	.439	9

Unfinished division tie.

WEDNESDAY'S NL RESULTS:
Chicago 5, St. Louis 3
Pittsburgh 6, Houston 3 (11)
San Diego 4, San Francisco 2
Atlanta 6, Philadelphia 0
Florida 5, Montreal 3
New York 5, Cincinnati 4 (1st)
New York 5, Cincinnati 2 (2nd)
Los Angeles 7, Colorado 4

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division	W	L	Pct.	GB
Atlanta	60	51	.538	—
Philadelphia	66	73	.477	24
New York	68	76	.472	26
Florida	55	76	.419	29.5

Central Division

Philadelphia	68	73	.482	1
New York	68	75	.468	1
Florida	65	76	.464	2
Montreal	65	75	.464	2
Central Division				

West Division

Houston	74	66	.529
Chicago	71	69	.507
St. Louis	60	80	.429
Pittsburgh	57	84	.404

West Division

Unfinished division tie.

Israeli Judokas set to take on the world

LOCAL SCENE

HEATHER CHAIT

Peace may have been made yesterday in Washington but the real test is on the judo mat. Today Oren Smadja faces an Iranian opponent in his first round fight of the World Championships in Chiba, Japan. The Iranian, Ali Chamanfar, is not expected to uphold the peace and will probably choose to forfeit.

Yael Arad's quest for a 1-7 place to satisfy the Olympic criterion begins with an easy fight against Brigit Blum from Liechtenstein but round two will have her up against European champion Jenny Gal from Holland.

Flourishing seeds
Hitting the semifinals of the Israel Tennis Championships in Jerusalem yesterday were first and second seeds Eyal Ran and Eyal Etlich. Ran who beat Nir Welgoren 6-3, 6-1 will play Harel Levy who knocked out Davis Cup player Noam Behr 6-2, 3-6, 7-5 (4-6). The other semifinal will be Etlich vs. Etlich. Eyal against Yoni, after the former disqualified Amir Hadad 6-2, 4-6, 6-4 and Yoni put away Jonny Ben Harush 6-2, 7-5. The women's semifinals will be contested among the four top seeds with Nelly Barkan (1) and Nataly Cahana (4) on one court and Shiri Burstein (2) and

Hila Rosen (3) on the other.

Grizzly memories

Recalling the murders of the Israeli athletes in Munich yesterday was fencer Tania Samusenko, four time Olympic medalist and five time world champion, on a private visit to Israel. Meeting with Esther Roth and fencer Lydia Hatzel-Zuckerman at the Israel Sports Federation in Tel Aviv, the Russian champion remembered, "Everything happened just meters away from us. We saw the terrible scenes from our windows. We were forced to stay in our room because of the fear that the Jews in our team would also be a target."

Brazil is coming!

The world champions of dance, festivities and ... volleyball, Brazil, will be in Jerusalem in May to compete in the Jerusalem Tournament, as part of the 3000 year celebrations of the city. Other countries expected to be in on the fun are Cuba, Italy (Europe's champions) and Japan.

Shooting star

Watch out for Hani Yukonesky. The 17-year-old shooter from Hapoel Rehovot won the European Youth Championships in Zurich, beating marksmen from 46 nations, with a score of 591, which added four points to the last Israeli women's record. In the group category Israel shot its way to sixth place.

Mac. Haifa bows out of Europe with lackluster play vs. Lisbon

DEREK FATTAL

MACCABI Haifa, Israel's sole remaining representative in European competition, put on a lame display at Kiryat Eliezer last night, mustering a disappointing scoreless draw in the second leg of its first round Cup Winners' Cup tie against Portugal's Sporting Lisbon.

The Haifa side, aiming to preserve its dignity by securing a face-saving win — after its humiliating 4-0 defeat inflicted by Sporting at the Alvalade Stadium in the first leg — proved impotent in front of goal.

Open chances fell to Haim Revivo and especially Ofer Shitret before the break, but both players failed to steer the ball home to the disgust of the 7,000 crowd.

Shortly after the interval Eyal Berkowitz was put through but fired over his target when the ball should have been buried in the back of the net.

The visitors managed to launch a number of counterattacks during the game which were safely dealt with by Haifa goalkeeper Rafi Cohen, but with so many goals in the bag from the first leg, Sporting was under no pressure to take the game to the Israelis.

The Portuguese outfit advances to the second round of the competition they won back in 1963.

For Maccabi and Israeli clubs in general, this season's comprehensive failure in continental competition necessitates a long hard critical look at the standard of the game at club level. Many of the country's highest paid stars have been made to look very ordinary indeed, and should be the first to draw the appropriate conclusions from their abysmal performance on the Europe stage.



FREE FOR ALL — Dutch Feyenoord Rotterdam striker Regi Blinker (c) fights for the ball with Dag Liepaja midfielders Maxim Kasjan (l) and Normund Zile (r) during their Cup Winners Cup match yesterday.

CUP WINNERS CUP (first-round, second-leg)

Everton (England) 3, Feyenoord (Netherlands) 1 (2-1).
Sporting Lisbon (Portugal) 0, Maccabi Haifa (Israel) 0 (4-0).
Hapoel Tel Aviv (Israel) 2, Lokomotiv Sofia (Bulgaria) 0 (1-0).
Sporting (Portugal) 2, Rapid Vienna (Austria) 0 (3-0).
Sporting (Portugal) 2, Rapid Vienna (Austria) 0 (3-0).

Aggregated scores: Sporting (Portugal) 4, Feyenoord (Netherlands) 2, Hapoel Tel Aviv (Israel) 2, Lokomotiv Sofia (Bulgaria) 0, Rapid Vienna (Austria) 0.

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Club Brugge wins 2-1 on aggregate.

Maccabi Haifa (Israel) 0, Sporting Lisbon (Portugal) 0.

Sporting Lisbon wins 4-0 on aggregate.

Hapoel Tel Aviv (Israel) 2, Lokomotiv Sofia (Bulgaria) 0 (1-0).

Sporting (Portugal) 2, Rapid Vienna (Austria) 0 (3-0).

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Hapoel faces questioning about Haberfeld campaign

THE police intend to question all the heads of the Hapoel Sports Association concerning suspicions the organization transferred NIS 225,000 to help finance former Hapoel secretary-general Haim Haberfeld's election campaign last year.

Police sources said yesterday the probe into Hapoel's involve-

ment in Haberfeld's campaign will lead to the indictment of Haberfeld, former Histadrut treasurer Artur Yisraelovitz, and possibly several Hapoel directors.

The matter came to light a few days ago, during police interrogation of a witness as part of the investigation of corruption in the

Histadrut. The team in charge of the Histadrut investigation, headed by Ch. Supt. Ze'ev Hayut and Supt. Elfrim Rabin, has been probing Hapoel's involvement in the election campaign after confiscating documents from Hapoel headquarters in Tel Aviv.

According to the new information uncovered, senior Histadrut officials are suspected of asking Hapoel to transfer some NIS 225,000 to the advertising agency in charge of Haberfeld's campaign. The expense was allegedly reg-

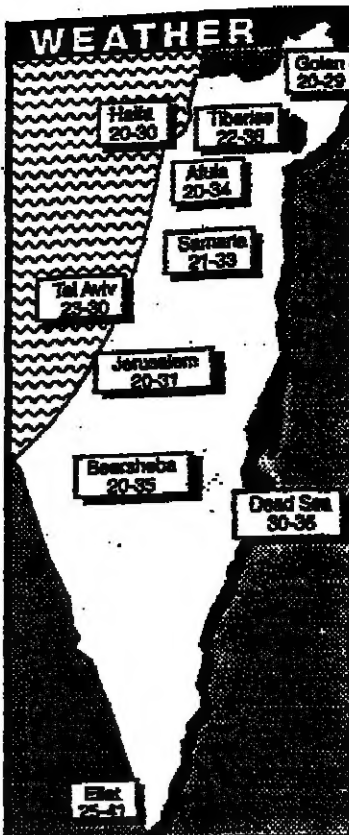
istered in Hapoel's account books as part of its financing of sporting events in organized work places.

The police suspect that Hapoel leaders knew of and approved transaction.

Haberfeld and Yisraelovitz, whom the police have already recommended be indicted for

other Histadrut affairs, were questioned again under warning last week about suspicions raised in the handling of Hapoel funds.

Hapoel chairman Yoram Obrakovitz is in Munich for the unveiling of the memorial for the 11 Olympic athletes murdered by terrorists, so was unavailable for comment.



Forecast: Hot and dry. Shabbat: Slight decrease in temperatures.

AROUND THE WORLD	LOW	HIGH	C	F
Amsterdam	10	14	50	57
Berlin	10	14	50	57
Bombay	24	30	75	86
Buenos Aires	10	14	50	57
Calcutta	24	30	75	86
Cairo	18	24	64	75
Copenhagen	10	14	50	57
Frankfurt	10	14	50	57
Geneva	10	14	50	57
Hamburg	10	14	50	57
Hong Kong	24	30	75	86
London	10	14	50	57
Los Angeles	18	24	64	75
Moscow	10	14	50	57
New York	10	14	50	57
Paris	10	14	50	57
Rome	10	14	50	57
San Francisco	18	24	64	75
Shanghai	24	30	75	86
Stockholm	10	14	50	57
Tokyo	18	24	64	75
Washington	18	24	64	75
Zurich	10	14	50	57

Mother remanded for abusing one-year-old

THE Petah Tikva woman suspected of abusing her one-year-old son - he was brought to Schneider Children's Medical Center suffering from a fractured skull and a damaged retina over Rosh Hashana - was remanded for seven days by Petah Tikva Magistrate's Court yesterday.

Her husband, suspected of the same offense, was remanded for eight days on Wednesday.

The woman, 21, appeared confused in court, and her sister, who had come to assist her, shouted "It's all a lie," to reporters.

Supt. Yossi Kaminka, the youth officer for the Petah Tikva police, sought a 15-day remand, saying there was a pattern of ongoing violence in which the baby had been seriously injured at least three times since his birth.

He presented a medical report by a pathologist, Dr. Yehuda Hiss, which said the boy's skull had been fractured on both sides by severe pressure, and that fractures of his legs had been caused by pulling.

Kaminka also said that when the boy was brought to the hospital emergency room several months ago, the mother took him away before he could be treated.

Police investigators, he added, had found contradictions in the statements made by the mother, and concluded she was lying and had coordinated her story with her husband.

The woman's attorney contended that the police had no real evidence against his client, and that their version of events was based solely on hearsay.

The boy, meanwhile, remains in the hospital and his condition remains serious. (Itim)

Iranian hijacker appeals remand

AMIR ROZENBLIT

THE hijacker of the Iranian plane will appeal today to Beersheba District Court against his remand.

Reza Jabari, 29, surrendered to the authorities and asked for asylum shortly after the hijacked plane landed at Uvda Air Force Base north of Eilat last week. The next day he was brought before Eilat Magistrate's Court and remanded for 15 days.

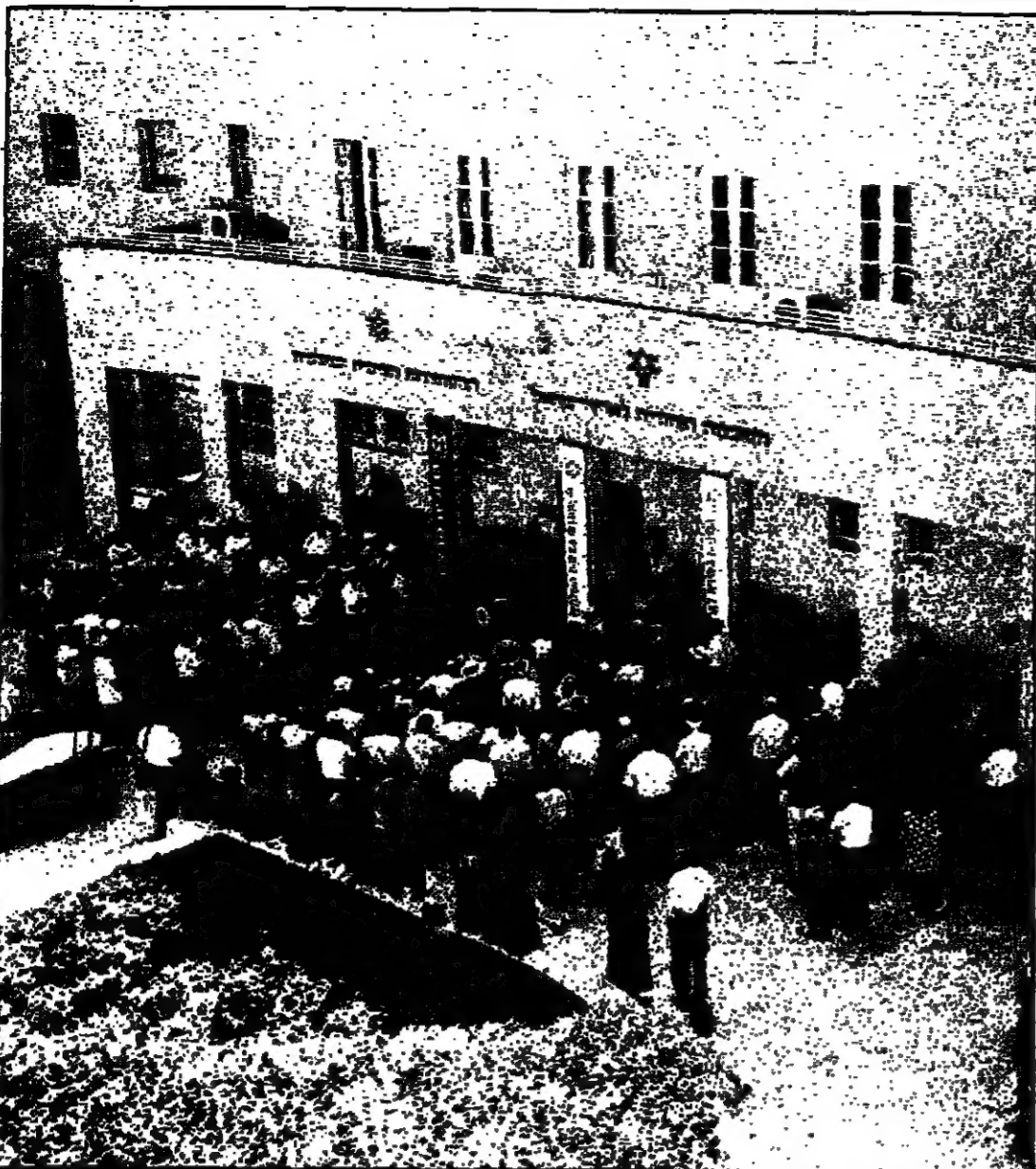
The Southern District Attorney's Office has not yet decided how to proceed with the case. If it is decided to try Jabari on criminal charges, he will be indicted for hijacking, kidnapping, infiltration, and illegal possession of a weapon. Hijacking carries a life sentence.

The DA's office is waiting for a directive on the case from the political echelon, which are likely to decide to turn Jabari over to the International Red Cross.

Jabari's lawyer will argue before the court today that there is no justification for leaving his client in prison.

On Wednesday, he formally asked for asylum in a petition to Beersheba Magistrate's Court, and declared his desire to convert to Judaism and marry a Jewish woman.

He also said he would like to meet with the family of missing navigator Ron Arad. "I love the Jewish people and I am asking that I not be tried," he said.



Former Supreme Court Justice Moshe Landau yesterday delivers the eulogy for former World Zionist Organization head Yitzhak Warshawsky, who died at 76. The funeral was held at Jewish Agency headquarters in Jerusalem. (Joe Malcolm)

Police admit: No definite link between Abeid and site where Kikos was found

AMIR ROZENBLIT

THE head of the Negev District police investigations unit admitted in court yesterday that police had found no definite link between Suleiman Abeid, charged with the 1993 rape and murder of Hanit Kikos, and the drainage pit in which Kikos's remains were found this summer.

Supt. Shimon Amar, testifying in Beersheba District Court, was subjected to a severe grilling by defense attorney Avigdor Feldman regarding details of how the

investigation had proceeded since the body was found in June. Feldman demanded to know whether any other line of inquiry was followed other than the further investigation of Abeid.

As an example, he asked whether the Yugoslavian workers who built the drainage pits had been investigated. Amar insisted that police had

followed all possible lines of inquiry. But Amar did not cite anything specific.

"In my opinion," Feldman said, "you did not investigate anything else because you are convinced that Abeid is the murderer."

The prosecution is basing its case on fibers found in Abeid's car, which were found to resemble fibers found near Kikos's remains.

Police also said they found tools in Abeid's car which he could have used to open the drainage pit.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Tel Aviv man stabs wife to death

A man stabbed his wife to death yesterday evening during a dispute that erupted in their south Tel Aviv apartment. Sabinedetch Barishidov, 28, was taken to Ichilov Hospital with serious wounds, but died a few hours after arrival. Her husband, 33, was arrested. The woman's body was transferred to the Abu Kabir Forensic Institute for an autopsy. (Itim)

Police find drugs, guns in Jaffa home

An Uzi, a pistol, and ammunition, along with a large quantity of drugs, were seized in a raid on the home of a Jaffa man, police announced yesterday morning. Another large cache of drugs was found at his sister-in-law's nearby home.

Police said some 918 grams of a substance believed to be heroin was seized, along with 64 grams of suspected opium, which after cutting would have a street value of NIS 600,000. The man, 37, was recently released from prison after serving a six-year term. (Itim)

Speeder loses license for two years

An army major who was twice caught speeding on his motorcycle - once at 136 kph and the second time at 194 kph - had his license suspended yesterday for two years and was fined NIS 2,500.

With regard to the first offense, which occurred a year ago, Yigal Lahziel had originally told the Kiryat Gat Traffic Court that he had been returning from the funeral of a friend, and he was "so angry about my friend's death that I rode fast."

But at yesterday's hearing, he had no excuse to offer with regard to the second offense. Judge Revital Kalifa considered both offenses in handing down the sentence. (Itim)

Liposomes promise better chemotherapy

JUDY SIEGEL

AN Israeli team has developed "stealth liposomes" - microscopic particles of fatty vesicles whose coating allows them to elude destruction by the body's immune system.

The new "drug-delivery system" has shown great promise in improving the results of chemotherapy in patients with Kaposi's sarcoma and is now being tested in Jerusalem and abroad on patients with breast and prostate cancer.

Prof. Alberto Gabizon, a leading liposome researcher at the Sharet Institute of Oncology at the Hadassah-University Hospital in Jerusalem, said yesterday that he hopes this new kind of liposome will be used routinely on cancer patients in two or three years. The "stealth liposomes" bearing the chemotherapeutic agent doxorubicin is now being manufactured for clinical trials by Liposome Technology Inc. of Menlo Park, California.

Gabizon explained that chemotherapy drugs - the current main weapon against tumors - are very toxic, killing healthy cells as well as cancerous ones. In addition, since they are given by infusion into the bloodstream, a large percentage of the drugs are absorbed by the liver and kidneys and excreted too fast for the cancer cells to be destroyed.

"In most cases, a solid tumor

receives only about one percent of the amount actually infused into the body, but we can't give more because they are toxic," he explains.

Gabizon, working with Prof. Yeherkeel Barenholz of the biochemistry department at the Hebrew University-Hadassah School of Medicine and other colleagues, adapted liposomes to deliver doxorubicin, which is widely used against solid tumors.

"Since liposomes are ordinarily recognized by macrophages in the white blood cells that gobble up foreign matter, they are not much use in delivering chemotherapeutic drugs," said Gabizon. Thus the team used a synthetic material to coat liposomes so they are "unrecognizable" to the macrophages. Their process has been patented.

Attracted by the "leaky blood vessels" produced by tumors, the liposomes remain in the tumor cells for days and kill them. In Phase 3 trials at the University of Southern California on patients with Kaposi's syndrome (a serious complication of AIDS), patients enjoyed long remissions and demonstrated "excellent results."

Gabizon expects that liposomes of other types will eventually have a variety of other uses, including introducing DNA into cells as gene therapy for diseases.

Michael Weissman acquitted in murder of daughter

MICHAEL Weissman, charged along with his wife, Miriam, in the strangling death of their daughter Nathalie last December, was acquitted yesterday by Tel Aviv District Court.

The judges ruled that "the prosecution did not present enough evidence connecting the accused with the crime he is charged with in the indictment." They noted that the prosecution said Michael Weissman had woken up a 5 a.m., long after his daughter was dead. It is to be assumed that the accused was sleeping when the death occurred, the judges ruled. Miriam Weissman has been remanded until the end of trial. (Itim)

Sketch leads to arrest in rape

A POLICE artist's sketch, compiled from information provided by a young Beersheba woman who saved herself from rape by telling her attacker she suffered from AIDS, has led to the arrest of a suspect.

The man, who has a history of sexual offenses, was ordered sent for a week's psychiatric observation yesterday by Beersheba Magistrate's Court.

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